



Kusumben: Shining Model of Women Power

Gurukrupa SHG

President: Smt. Kusumben Kalidas Patel

No. of SHG members: 12

Village: Ambheti, Taluka: Kaparada, District: Valsad, Gujarat

Valsad—a tribal dominated district of Gujarat where Mango is an important horticultural crop. Tribal farmers grow mango on the border of farm or small piece of land. Most of them had to forcefully sell their produce at low price. Perishable in nature, no space for storage, over ripening of fruit and small marketable lot were the main factors responsible for selling in local market at low rates. During 2007-08, KVK had organized a training on value addition in mango for the farmers and farm women of Ambheti village. KVK acquired help from Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) in organizing trainings and provided a kit to each participant, i.e. corking machines, bottles, corks etc. All the trainees were imparted skills regarding selection of fruits, cleanliness, extraction of pulp using machines, boiling of pulp, quantity of preservative, sealing of bottle using corking machine etc.. This inspired the farm women to opt as small enterprise for mango pulp preservation. They formed a SHG named as “*Gurukrupa Self Help Group*”.

Today, each individual member of group is generating additional income of Rs.15000 to Rs.20000 per year. Mrs. Kusumben Kalidas Patel—leader of SHG and master trainer who alone filling more than 1000 bottles of mango pulp per year. It is sold in local market as well as supplied in the urban area on order basis. She is one of the popular profitable entrepreneurs earning Rs.45000 to Rs.55000 per year. Being master trainer, she is getting handsome income in addition to this vocation, which has improved the livelihood status of the tribal women of Kaparada taluka in Valsad.

