



**VicenteFerrer**

Rural Development Trust



# Our Earth is Our Home

The Mana Bhoomi Initiative at RDT aims to build environmental awareness and responsibility in society, initiate innovative and sustainable projects that benefit the Earth and help RDT become a model Sustainable Green Campus in the future.

The Philosophy behind Mana Bhoomi is “Our Earth is our Home. Let us live together in Harmony with Nature”. It is important for our communities to understand that our planet is the reason for our existence. Earth is more than just a resource. It is our home. Just like how we protect the living spaces in our physical home, we need to protect Earth.

Change is not about one person/organisation doing it all. It is about teaching everyone else. Our vision is to ensure that the people of Anantapur learn about these initiatives and implement such practices themselves.

The key areas where Mana Bhoomi focus on are:

Solid Waste Management, Sustainable Lifestyle, Water Management and Energy Efficiency.

## **Solid Waste Management - Our Waste, Our Responsibility**

Solid Waste Management (SWM) is one of the most basic services that needs to be sustainable in order to reduce environmental pollution. Mana Bhoomi aims to improve the existing SWM situation that causes extreme air pollution for the residents living nearby, pollutes natural resources and is a risk for animals. To promote safe SWM, Mana Bhoomi works on:

- Awareness sessions to help understand the problem that SWM creates for our Mother Earth and ourselves. Also, designing Audience-based Sustainable Waste Management Workshops.
- Promoting Primary Waste Segregation and Composting as a solution for on-site organic waste management.
- Collaborations with Sustainable SWM firms for specific material management such as E-Waste.
- Studying alternatives to make project circles more eco-friendly.

## **Sustainable Lifestyle - Our Health, Our Future**

It is essential to understand the link between the damage we are doing to Our Earth and how it affects Our Health. Mana Bhoomi follows the “Learning From” approach to promoting a Sustainable Lifestyle. The approach adopts a mix of learning from our traditional past as well as innovative design to Sustainability. In this key area, Mana Bhoomi’s pilot projects include:

- Studying the existing ways of lifestyles in specific contexts, identifying the problems and looking for alternative ways of doing the same but, this time, considering the environment.
- Organising volunteer programmes to help engage people, promote learning and responsibility towards our environment.
- Earth Saturdays as an initiative in RDT residential centres for children and youth to integrate Environmental learning as part of their routine.

## **Water Management - Our Water, Our Lifeline**

Mana Bhoomi delves into Water Management research focusing on innovative solutions for drought-prone areas as well as Water Conservation efforts.

- Research on Zero Water Discharge buildings and campuses.
- Recycle and Reuse Strategy for waste water from RO Plants in RDT Campuses.
- Working to ensure that all water-related proposals are environment friendly and adapted to the specific context.

## **Energy Efficiency - Our Energy, Our Step towards Sustainability**

Mana Bhoomi aims to reduce unnecessary energy consumption in all campuses as well as help people understand the importance of reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

- Awareness on Energy Efficiency and Conservation.
- Replacing existing lights and electrical equipment with energy efficient equipment.
- Reducing Vehicular Movement inside the campuses by promoting Walkable Campus Initiatives including information boards.