

## GODAVARI BIOREFINERIES<sup>1</sup>

**Region:** Asia

**Country:** India

**Crop/Feedstock:** Sugarcane

**Practices:** Inclusion of smallholders in bioenergy supply chain (IS) Contracts with local goods and service providers (CN); Training and education programmes (TE); Health and safety equipment/devices and information (HS); Microlending and financial support mechanisms (MF); Gender-sensitive corporate conduct (GC); Gender related corporate policies and programmes (GP)

**Issues:** Income Generation and Inclusion of Smallholders; Access to Land; Community Development; Gender Equity

The Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd, incorporated in 1939, has been demerged to Godavari Biorefineries Ltd as per High Court order dated 20.03.2009. Godavari Biorefineries Ltd, promoted by the late Shri. Karamshibhai Jethabhai Somaiya (Padmabhushan) and his son, the late Dr Shantilal Karamshibhai Somaiya, was incorporated in 1939 and has been contributing to the industrial development of India for more than six decades. It has plants located in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra in India and has diverse interests in sugar, power, industrial alcohol, heavy organic chemicals, specialty chemicals, biofertilizers and agricultural research. It manufactures more than twenty products from renewable resources, thereby forming an entire value chain right from sugar cane to sugar to other value-added products like power, ethanol, biofertilizers etc.

**Issue:** Access to Land; Income Generation and Inclusion of Smallholders;

**Practice:** Inclusion of smallholders in bioenergy supply chain (IS) Contracts with local goods and service providers (CN);

Godavari is an interesting company in that it has over 15 000 growers serving its biorefinery in Karnataka (and that was before production was expanded from 1.5 million tonnes of cane per year to just

over 3 million tonnes). Most farms in Karnataka are no bigger than 2–5 acres. In comparison, a similar-sized refinery in Brazil might have 100 growers at most. In return Godavari they has made a remarkable economic impact on the community over the years.

**Issue:** Community Development

**Practice:** Training and education programmes; Health and safety equipment/devices and information (TE); Microlending and financial support mechanisms (MF)

In India there are many students who are unable to continue their studies after the 10th standard due to lack of funds, despite the fact that they have scored exceptionally well. These students are the children of labourers, small-scale farmers, domestic workers and weavers. They may be orphans or part of single-parent families. These are students who have the potential to achieve highly but who without funding would be forced to give up their dreams and follow in their parents' footsteps.

The Help A Child To Study Project<sup>2</sup> was established by Shri Samir Somaiya in 2002 under the auspices of Somaiya Vidyavihar Trust to assist these students to complete their higher education and achieve their dreams. Scholarships are given to the students for courses after the 10th grade and cover a variety of courses right from junior college up until medical and engineering schools.

1 The information included in this document is based on information directly by the producer, which was not verified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

2 For more information on the organization and on sponsoring a child, visit: <http://www.helpachild.in/>

Help A Child does not discriminate between students based on caste, religion or gender. The only criteria for sponsorship are students who live in poverty and who have scored highly in their studies, above 70 percent for girls and above 75 percent for boys. The students have thereby already shown their potential to succeed in education and that they have the enthusiasm to do so.

In terms of child sponsorship programmes in India, Help A Child is largely unique. Most programmes operating in India focus on young children, supporting them only until the age of 16 or 18. While these programmes are aimed at alleviating poverty, something extra is needed in order to break the poverty cycle for children and their families. Help A Child firmly believes that further education is the most powerful way to lift families out of poverty by enabling them to stand on their own feet by using their own knowledge and talents. Since Help A Child's inception, more than 770 students have been sponsored for their education. Godavari Biorefineries remains Help A Child's largest sponsor and is committed to improving the futures of these talented young students.

The activities of Godavari Biorefineries Ltd are at the forefront of the rural development programmes undertaken by the Somaiya Group. Since their inception, a close relationship of care and concern has existed between the sugar mills and the farming communities with whom they interact. Benefits are mutually derived from this caring relationship and the commitment of the Somaiya Group to rural development has led to it playing a vital contributory role in the areas of India's farming and rural communities with which it comes in contact.

The other activities undertaken to benefit the communities include health, education, social and cultural programmes. The following are some activities undertaken by Somaiya Grameen Vikas Kendra for the benefit of the rural population:· Vocational training and tailoring classes· Adult education classes· The running of and supply of toys and materials to anganwadis (preschools)· Goshala (care taking programme) for cattle during severe drought· Implementation of Dr Maralusiddaiah's panchamukhi programmes in Madabhavi village· Rehabilitation of Devadasis· Veterinary camps

**Health Programmes:**· Hepatitis-B vaccinations· Programmes on the ill effects of alcoholism and tobacco· Programmes on food and nutrition· Family planning programmes for women· Multidiagnostic medical camps· HIV/AIDS awareness programmes· National pulse polio programme· Eye check-up camp· Dental treatment camps

**Issue:** Gender equity

**Practice:** Gender-sensitive corporate conduct (GC); Gender related corporate policies and programmes (GP)

Godavari seeks to ensure that women have equal access to the education and community development services that the company has developed. For example, the adult education centres providing lessons during the evening have separate courses for both women and men throughout the various villages in the Godavari Biorefineries' area of operation. The *Help A Child* previously described does not discriminate between students based on caste, religion, or gender.