

## Summary of Conference Call With Daripally Ramaiah (known as “Chetla Ramaiah”) on June 10, 2015

1. Ramaiah garu has hearing problem. So, his granddaughter, Mounika, who is studying Degree first year, has taken our questions and communicated to her thathayya.
2. Ramaiah garu spoke eloquently for about hour and half interspersed with his songs on the benefit of planting trees.
3. Ramaiah garu is about 70 years old, and he has heart problems, takes medicines on regular basis. He lives in Khammam, Maremmagudi.
4. His parents are Lalaiah, and garipally Pullamma.
5. In 1960, when he was going to school, his teacher used to ask him to do garden work. That’s how his love for plants has started.
6. Later, they used to go to local mango farm and farm supervisor used to ask him to collect the fallen fruits and give one or two fruits to eat. After eating fruit, he asked to leave seed.
7. In his village, the landlord used to have exclusive flower plants and Ramaiah garu wanted to grow them.
8. Ramaiah always used to share the seeds and plants with neighbors. He said that by giving to neighbors we can protect and enjoy our plants, fruits and flowers. He said “మనకున్న సంపద అందరికీ ఉండాలి.”
9. Vemana and Gurajala are his gurus and he converted many of their songs into plant theme.
10. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Book he learned that everyone should show good behavior with good deeds. That inspired him to do this service
11. When he was kid, they used to play with rail made with matchboxes. He used to collect match boxes and once he planted match box thinking that it will give more boxes!
12. Eating fruits is wonderful, but use the seeds of eaten fruits to plants is more satisfying.
13. 10 years back, his leg has broken and at that time many people used to bring him fruits. He used to collect seeds for planting.
14. His goal is to make “Green Telangana” or “Haritha Telangana”
15. He was presented a book called “A.P. Environmental Status” (ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్ పర్యావరణ పరిస్థితి ) by Parvathagiri R. Murali garu
16. Planting is like “recharging the time”!
17. He wrote 116 reasons why we should grow plants. He wrote 4 thousands *sookthulu* (సూక్తులు ) and 64 songs on plantation.
18. He used to plant on the road sides, in schools etc. Kids used to join him and help with planting. Then, he used to water it and protect with kampa (కంప) until it is grown.
19. అదును చూసి చల్లితే పదునుకే పండుతాయి
20. Planted at Thanikella, Thummalapalli, Muthagudem, Mukkidigutta across 15 km in many areas
21. కంప చెట్టు పక్కన పళ్ళ చెట్టు నాటరా! పళ్ళ చెట్టు పక్కన కంప చెట్టు నాటరా!
22. Collector (Laxmi Partha Sarathy Bhaskar & Ajay Prakash Sahni) )gave membership in “భూమి జల వృక్ష సంరక్షణ “ committee
23. Schools invite him to plant trees and motivate kids. He sings songs also

24. Mostly he will plant trees that give shade ( గానుగ చెట్లు )
- 25. He suggest kids to protect the plants so that teacher will give additional marks**
26. He researches and explains about medicinal plants also
27. April 22 భూమండల సంరక్షణ దినం, Collector invited him
28. NGOs are trying to promote awareness, but no dedicated individual I came across like me, who is working like this.
29. Recognition to me should inspire others
30. Govt. should print pictures of planting awareness on currency
31. Govt. should make separate వన budget
32. In every village, on every tank bund fruit plants and Red sandalwood ( ఎర్ర చందనం ) should be grown as mixed crop
33. People know about wine shops, but no knowledge about where to get plants and nurseries
34. His dream is to grow all kinds of plants in the 100 acre garden
35. He proposed to promote "My Shop – My Tree" (నా కొట్టు - నా చెట్టు ) for shop owners to grow plants next to their shop. Similarly, నా ఇల్లు - నా చెట్టు campaign should be done
36. In temples, plant distribution should be done
37. In 1997, Collector Giridhar under Janma Bhoomi project provided TVS Champ with Rs 1500 petrol expense, to promote and plant trees.
38. Now, since it is not working, so he asked to provide another TVS Champ with about Rs 50,000 per month towards expenses, to do planting campaign.
39. About NRIs – he requested everyone to adopt
40. About family – Ramaiah garu has three sons and one daughter. First one has cool drinks shop, second one passed away with heart attack, third one has auto.
41. Ramaiah gari wife also goes with him for plantation everyday
42. To really appreciate his eloquent talk and passion, one should listen to his audio talk, please let us know if you are interested.