

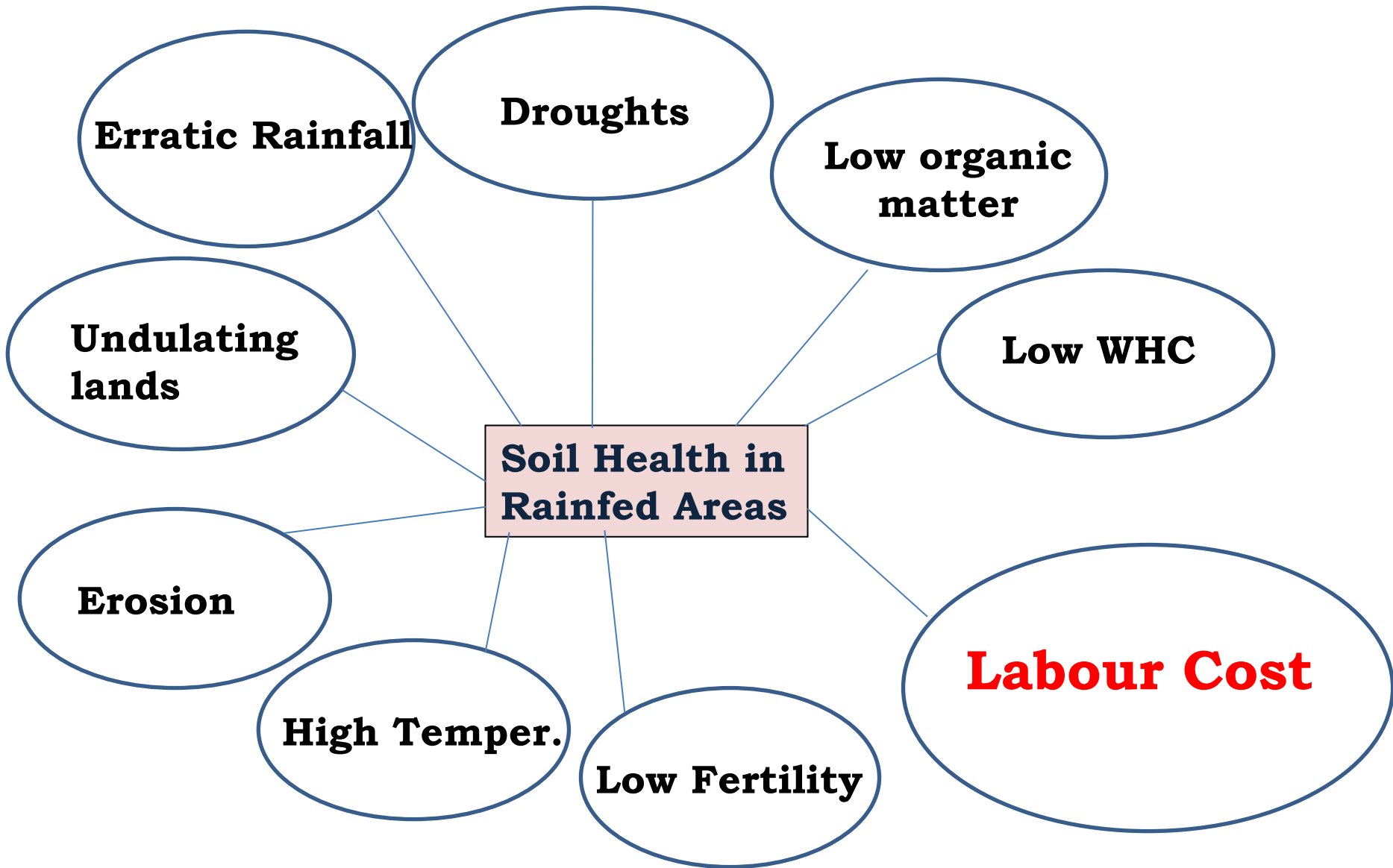
**Soil Health Management for Sustainable Agricul.
through
Rainfed Land Development Program (RLDP)**

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***Presented in Brain storming Workshop
on***

**Rethinking Rainfed Farming – Crafting an Agril.
Policy Appropriate to the Rainfed Areas 22-23 June 09**



Erratic Rainfall

Droughts

Low organic matter

Low WHC

Labour Cost

Low Fertility

High Temper.

Erosion

Undulating lands

Soil Health in Rainfed Areas

NREGA to play Key Role in

Ever Green Revolution

Support for

Rainfed Land Development

***RLDP an Integrated program in
APREGS***

Objectives of RLDP . . .

1. Improvement of soil health:

Arrest land degradation, improve soil fertility and moisture holding capacity through usage of organic matter.

2. Development of biomass:

Through Multi Purpose Trees to provide biomass for soil fertility, fodder, fuel, timber and fruits in the farm lands.

3. Diversifying crop and farming systems:

Encouraging vegetables, fodder, dryland horticulture, mixed/ inter-cropping system, integrating livestock etc.

4. Generate sustainable wage employment:

Activities in RLDP

Activity (s)	Visible output
<p>Soil & Water Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erosion control structures - Water harvesting structures 	<p>Arresting land degradation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All soil conservation works complete -All (small) water harvesting structures complete
<p>Soil Fertility Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Composting - Green manuring - Inter cropping - Mulching - Tank silt application -Liquid manures 	<p>Enhancement of soil health</p> <p>The status of soil organic matter during the crop season improved through changes in the crop systems, appropriate agronomic measures, application of compost and tank silt application.</p>
<p>Biomass Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MPT plantations on bunds -Biomass development in common lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased Biomass availability for soil fertility improvement, fodder etc -The common lands and private fallows lands will be developed into pastures/ fodder plots.

(Cont.)

Activities in RLDP

Activity (s)	Visible output
<p>Diversification of crop systems and sustainable agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dryland Horticulture - Vegetable & fodder production - Intercropping/mixed cropping - NPM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rainfed horticulture integrated into the farming systems -Crop systems are diversified to include intercrops that provide fodder and improve soil fertility. - Fodder availability increased
<p>Extending protective irrigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting the bore wells 	<p>Extending protective irrigation to rainfed crops and horticulture plants</p>
<p>Reclamation of problem soils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gypsum incorporation - Green manuring 	<p>Reclaimed soils and productivity improvement</p>

Approach ...

- 1. Demarcating 100 ha rainfed land as block for development**
- 2. Organising the farmers in to groups and networking at mandal**
- 3. Strengthening the groups**
- 4. Survey number wise identifying the activities and preparing a plan for EGS**
- 5. Establishment of seed systems through **Seed Banks** and **nursery** as backstop**
- 6. A custom hiring centre and a **NPM shop** for every 100 ha block as support system**
- 7. Credit linkage for inputs & Marketing**
- 8. Collective & Networked Marketing through groups**
- 9. *Managing unit*- Gram Panchayat**

RLDP will address the;

- **Restoration of soil health**
- **Reduction in cost of production**
- **Increase in biomass**
- **Income to the farmer as wages**

RLDP could be a policy intervention at centre or state EGS

RLDP as a pilot program

Project Coverage: - 100 villages, 10,000 ha

***Districts:* Anantapur- 40 villages in 2 mandals
4000 ha**

**Mahabubnagar 60 villages in 3 mandals,
6000 ha**

Duration: 5 years

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