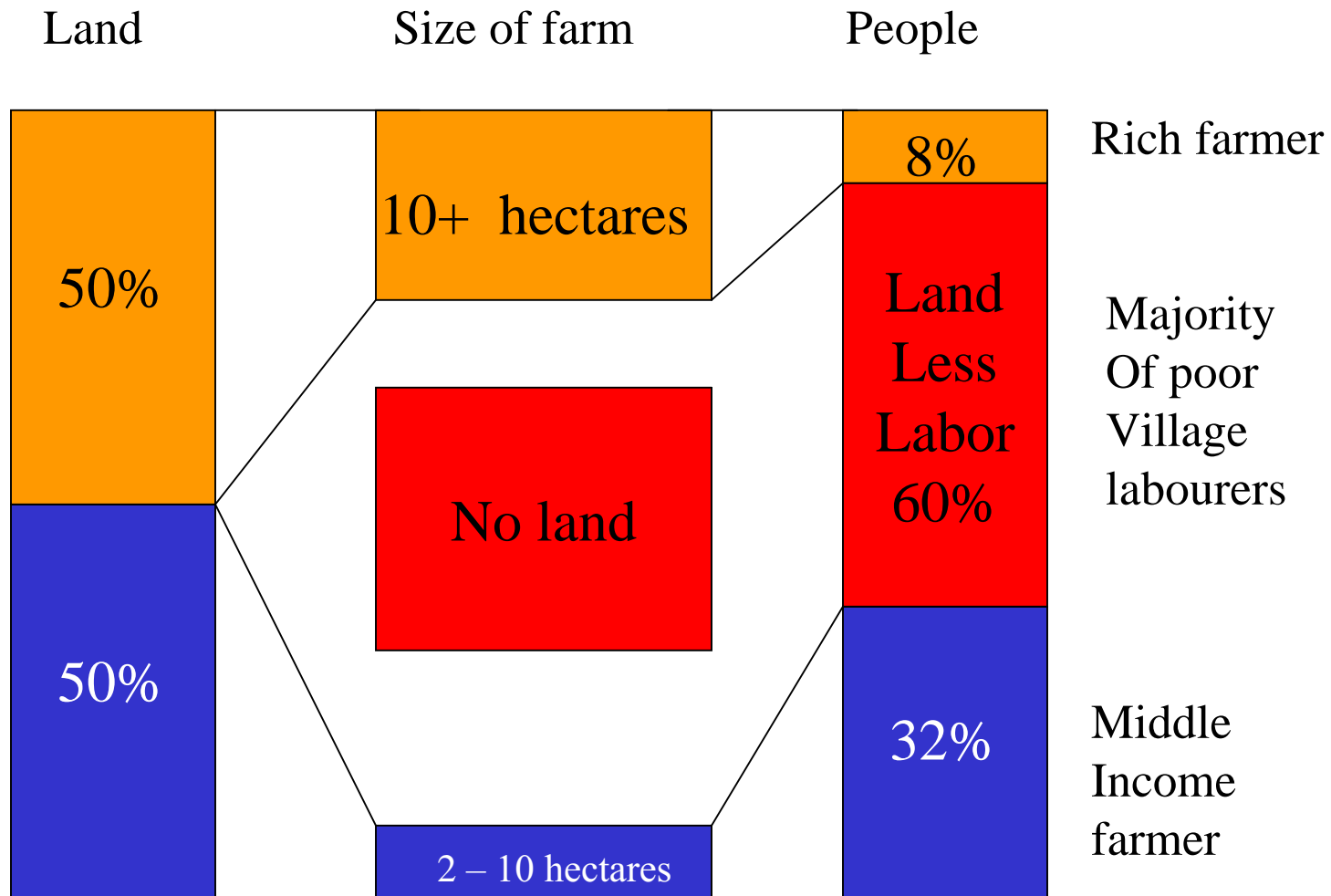




A typical village – 60% of the villagers have no land



A typical village



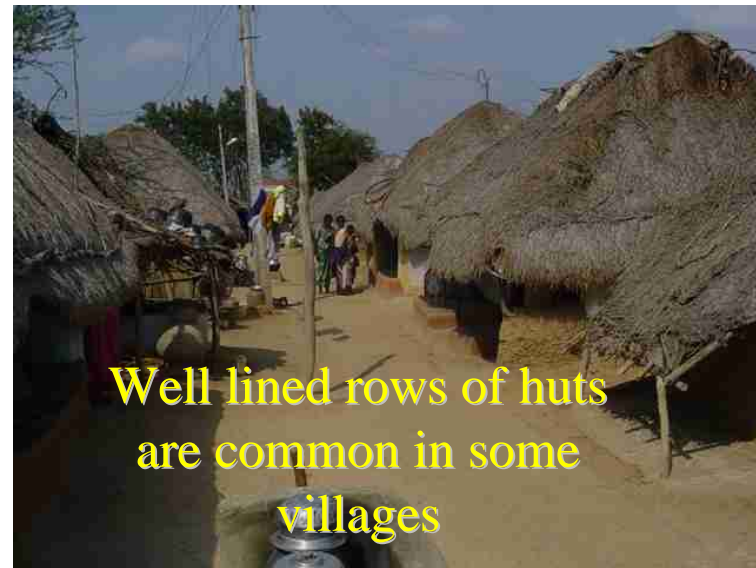
Thatched roof huts, buffaloes, clean air and blue skies mark the village



street vendors selling farm fresh produce



school children in a village school



Well lined rows of huts are common in some villages

What are the realities of a village, people's needs?



- About 800 families and 3,000 people
- most men have no jobs.
- Children do not have a good role model.
- After high school most young men and women leave the village to a nearby metropolitan town in search of jobs.
- Only 30% of the people own the lands
- The other 70% work as day labourers
- *Villager is trying to earn Rs 50.00 per day (\$ 1.25)*
- Caste system is alive and active in the village.

Self Help Group – (SHG) – micro-credit village style



- SHG are typically groups of 20 women saving Rs 50 per month. They loan this money to their members at low interest rates like 0.5% to 1.0 % per month
- TN alone has 170,000 SHG's, total savings in multiple Crores of Rupees.
- Most SHG's have turned into loan givers within the village, searching for productive economic activities. (But this is a good first step).
- Using the money collected, if the SHG can propose a viable economic activity, a bank will offer a loan and the Govt can also provide a matching loan.

How did these villages succeed? – Ralegaon Siddhi in Maharashtra



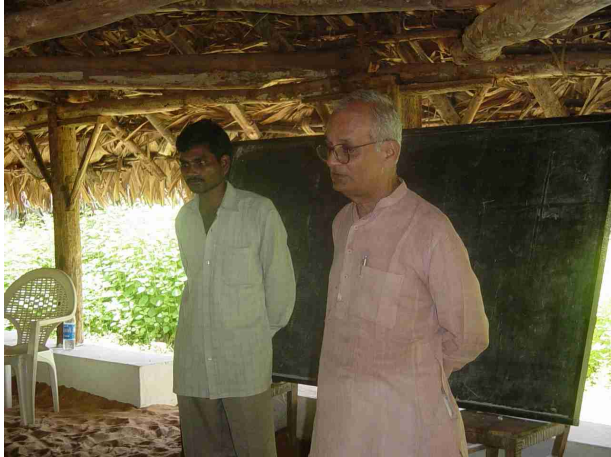
- Ralegaon Siddhi (RS) is about 80 km NE of Pune in the Ahmadnagar district.
- Anna Hazare after his army service went back to his native village 17 years ago and started the process of transformation.
- Water is systematically harvested today; by percolation tanks, by check dams, by wells being recharged. Of the 1700 odd acres of arable land, 1100 to 1200 acres are under irrigation
- Picture Top: Hills around RS with water harvesting using Continuous Contour trenching
- Picture Bottom: Anna Hazare in his room at the village temple.

How did these villages succeed? – Kuthambakkam in Tamil Nadu



- Elango Rengasamy, the Panchayat leader in Kuthambakkam, a village 40 km from Chennai.
- Elango, a chemical engineer, used to work in Chennai, returned to his native village 6 years ago.
- KBKM now can boast about its houses, clean roads, proper hygiene, technology center, livelihood creations centre – all thanks to Elango.
- Since the successful transformation of Kuthambakkam, 4 or 5 neighbouring villages have sought Elango's advise and are on the mend
- Some past residents of Kuthambakkam who had gone to cities like Chennai looking for economic opportunities, have now returned to the village.
- Picture Top: Elango in the middle.
- Picture Bottom: Building a villager's house

How did these villages succeed? – Yellamanchili in Andhra Pradesh



- “It takes a genius to keep India poor”
- "We need to dream big, like Gandhiji did. To rally the masses against the British, Gandhiji came up with the idea of salt sathyagraha. Salt touched everyone's life in India. Plus, it was responsible for turning many to take an active role in the independence movement and become leaders
- "Age old wisdom and a common sense approach to solving today's problems in India is what is needed."
- Picture Top: Dr Parameshwara Rao (R)
- Picture Bottom: At a primary school

How did these villages succeed? – Alwar area in Rajasthan



- 6,000 villages in eastern Rajasthan and the ‘arvari’ river are back to life.
- Rajender Singh and his band of young volunteers started the Tarun Bharat Sangh
- You must visit the ‘johads’(small lakes) and Check Dams to see what water means to a village.
- During the marriage ceremony, the couple visit the checkdams – to make it a part of their family.
- In one word “Paani ko rukna” – stop the flow of water.
- Picture right: Rajender Singh
- Picture left top: a check dam
- Picture left bottom: a meeting with villagers

Examples of NRI initiated projects.



- 1- SMSF Foundation projects in Haryana.
- 2 – Virendra Singh in Buland Shahr in UP
- 3- Jagdish Shukla in Bailia District
- 4- Umesh Rahotgi in Sur Sardham in Gujarat
- 5-Madhu Deshpande in Maharashtra
- 6- Vikram Akula in Hyderabad
- 7- Pailla Reddy in Andhra Pradesh
- 8- Anand Shah – IndiCorps
- 9- Bibek & Purnima Ray in West Midnapore
- 10-Manish & Shilpa Jain – Jaipur RJ
- 11-Ajai Kumar – Mysore
- 12-Gurumail and Raghbir Singh

NRI initiated project - Suri Sehgal in Haryana



- The S.M. Sehgal Foundation supports programs designed to promote sustainable development at the village level.
- The Foundation's goals are: .
 - To promote the benefits of small families in a culturally sensitive manner. .
 - To increase income through skills development and other initiatives. .
 - To promote environmentally sound agricultural practices
- These goals are being pursued through “integrated, sustainable village development”. This multi-disciplinary approach targets grass roots actions based on community mobilization.
- Picture top: Suri Sehgal -rightmost

NRI initiated project - Vikram Akula in Hyderabad



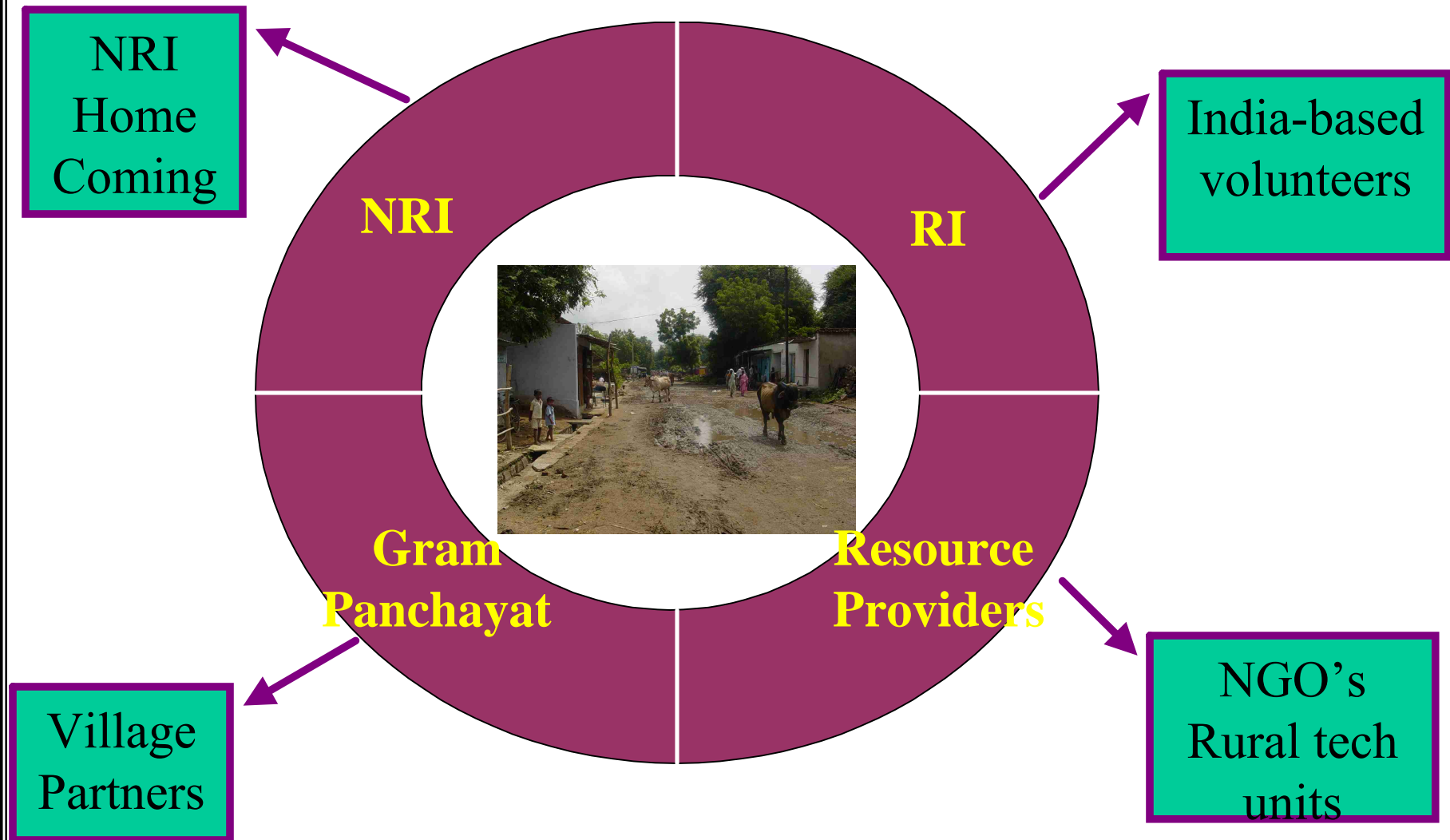
- The poverty in India is disconcerting," says Vikram Bayana Akula. "I just thought I must do something." That's how this story began in the interiors of arid Andhra Pradesh.
- Born in New York, went to school in Chicago
- Vikram helps the poor villagers with a micro-credit unit located in Hyderabad.
- started the Swayam Krishi Sangam (SKS) in 1998 in Medhak district
- Currently loans out more than a US 1 million dollars
- Picture Top: Vikram Akula
- Picture Bottom: Villagers in a SKS meeting.

NRI initiated project - Sonal, Roopal & Anand Shah – IndiCorps



- Three siblings started IndiCorps in 2001 with their personal funding. Second batch of 15 recruits arrived in India on August 2003.
- Participate in 1 year projects in rural and social areas.
- Recruits pay their airfare to India. Indicorps supports the stay in India
- President Kalam is a supporter of IndiCorps
- NRI-Home-Coming will act as the Senior Corps wing of IndiCorps.
- Picture Top: Kalam visiting IndiCorps
- Picture bottom: Sonal Shah was chosen as the Person of the Year 2003 by IndiaAbroad

MY VILLAGE effort - For each village cluster in a District



Next step.. Where do I start?



1. Join the Yahoo Group by clicking below.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NRI-Home-Coming/join>

2. Contact one of the volunteers in the US. Discuss your personal wishes and your ability to participate in this program.
3. We will arrange for suitable training for you based on your degree of introduction – beginner, intermediate, advanced
4. We will connect you with Hosts and NRI Pioneers in India.
5. We will work with you to design a suitable program to get you started.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."...MG