

# DECCAN Chronicle

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## New drip irrigation system for farmers

**RAM KUMAR RAMASWAMY | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 16**

AgSri Agricultural Services Private Limited, the Hyderabad-based social enterprise, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the US-based Dripteck Inc, the makers of low-cost drip irrigation systems, to help small farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Priced at ₹12,000 per acre, the system scores high in acceptance due to its easy installation and maintenance. While the precision holes on the UV stabilised drip tape ensure a uniform distribution of water, the system can be easily unclogged through regular rinsing. A venture pipe helps disperse fertilisers into the system through the same channel.

Farmers from north Andhra Pradesh, who had their farms fitted with Dripteck irrigation systems, spoke of increased yields and water savings. With the state govern-

ment declaring more than three-fourths of the state as "drought-hit", Dripteck systems, invested in by the Khosla Impact and headed by entrepreneur Vinod Khosla, could ideally grow and evolve in a region-specific manner. "In China and India, the plot sizes are extremely small for an average landholder. That calls for frugal irrigation techniques with less funding," said Mr Peter Frykman, founder and chief executive officer, Dripteck Inc.

Mr Biksham Gujja, chairman of AgSri, explained: "Farmers should come forward to approach the relevant authorities towards getting subsidies for these new age irrigation solutions."

Mr Easwar Goud, a vegetable farmer, said: "My yield has gone up in the one acre of vegetable farm through the effective management of water."

Mr Malla Reddy, a farmer, said: "Cucumber crop planted in 30 cents of my land yielded good results."

### EASY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE



The installation of the system costs ₹12,000 per acre. The accurately positioned precision holes on the UV stabilised drip tape ensure a uniform distribution of water, and the system can be easily unclogged through a regular rinsing. A venture pipe helps disperse fertilisers into the system. It offers a hope to farmers in drought-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh.