

## Doddapatre For Charity

By Srishti Ithychanda

*Doddapatre*, or *Spanish Thyme*, is a plant originally from Southern Africa. It was most likely brought to South Asia through trade. Mainly, it is used to treat allergies and as a substitute for oregano in cooking. In the state of Karnataka it is used for treating digestion problems, as well as, cuts and bruises. For cooking, people use it in appetizers and sauces. When I was younger my aunt gave us a Doddapatre plant. Since then we have done many trimmings and planted many new saplings. Most of the time we just give our saplings and extra leaves away to family friends who know how to use it. It was only sometime in August this year that my dad and me got the idea to sell them while once again trimming the plant.

We put about 20 leaves in each ziploc bag and then labeled them each \$1.00 a packet. Next, we decided to sell them at Kasturi Kannada Sangha's Ganesh Chaturthi celebration and donate the money to SEWA! We ended up selling 22 out of the 24 bags that we started with. My dad gave me \$3.00 of his money when we got back home to add to the \$22.00 we had to make \$25.00. We then donated \$25.00 to SEWA online.

This is the first time that I have done something to contribute to a charity organization like SEWA. It's a great feeling to know that you have just earned money and that money is going to help someone in need of it.

