

0311. 6th Progress Report on the Consortium Programme (Mar 1998)

This Report gives data and details on Community Organisation (Membership & Coverage, Meetings, Issues, Struggles & Discussions, and Government Benefits), Coolie Women, CCFs, Sangha Funds and DLDP.

1. COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

1.1. Membership & Coverage

- There are 300 more active Member families in 507 functioning CSUs in the 4 Extension taluks, taking the current membership to 14,590. This figure includes 435 families from 16 CSUs which are still in Coolie Sangha building phase at Bagepalli taluk.
- ADATS has finished its 9 year intervention to build the Coolie Sangha in 82 villages of the erstwhile ICCO Areas.
- 4 new villages have been added on to the programme during the past 6 months; 2 villages have returned to the fold after a long absence; but unfortunately, 2 villages dropped out at the end of their 9 year intervention.
- The net increase in membership is 300 member Families and 4 villages, resulting in an increase in coverage from 37% to 38%.

Membership & Coverage Figures

| | Last Report | | This Report | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1st 3 year Formation phase | 69 | | 73 | |
| 2nd 3 year Formalisation phase | 324 | | 326 | |
| 3rd 3 year Consolidation phase | 110 | | 26 | |
| Independent CSUs | – | | 82 | |
| Normal Member Families | 14,290 | | 14,590 | |
| Women Memberships | 2,890 | (21%) | 3,211 | (22%) |
| Coverage of Village Population | 37% | | 38% | |

- The past 6 months has not seen any change in the ethnic composition and coverage of the membership.
- But recent socio-political struggles, where the Coolies used the principle of *Effective Minority*, have proven that there is a far wider acceptance of the Coolie Sangha, its ideology and the principles of unity, secularism and gender justice that it projects.

Ethnic Composition of the Membership

| Member Families | Percent in CSUs | Caste Group | Total Families | | Ethnic Coverage |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 9,046 | 62% | Scheduled Castes/Tribes | 19,182 | 50% | 47% |
| 2,784 | 19% | Middle Castes | 7,884 | 20% | 35% |
| 2,760 | 19% | Forward Castes | 11,710 | 30% | 24% |
| 14,590 | 100% | | 38,776 | 100% | 38% |

1.2. Regularity of Cluster Meets

- All the village meetings were conducted during this reporting period, but the overall regularity figure has remained at 69%.
- Mitemari and Julapalya present very sorry figures of 42% and 60% respectively, mainly due to the laxity of ADATS Field Staff who have subsequently been dismissed.
- Yet, because of critical comments found in the Special Progress Report, the regularity of Cluster Meets in 8 of the 10 Areas has actually *gone up* to 74%.

1.3. Issues, Struggles & Discussions

1.3.1. VLW WITHDRAWAL

Solid preparations were made for VLW withdrawal from the erstwhile NOVIB Areas. The Field Staff were determined that there should not be a repeat of earlier experiences, when ex-VLWs from the erstwhile ICCO Areas sabotaged quite a few CSUs.

This time around, there were numerous training and reflection sessions for elected Representatives and Cluster Secretaries, frank inventorisation of strengths and weaknesses, and clear statements from the VLWs who were about to be withdrawn

1.3.2. CW WITHDRAWAL

Community Worker withdrawal has always been a relatively smooth affair in our experience. Perhaps this is because they are committed youth, recommended for the job by their respective CSUs where they have earlier worked as VLWs and Teachers. Their being outsiders to the villages where they work for a limited period of 3 years, the services of CWs is considered more as a favour to the new Area than as a form of employment.

Yet some amount of preparation had to be made in the Sadali Area of Siddalaghatta taluk to help elected Cluster Secretaries take over. In spite of an otherwise hectic schedule, the Field Staff took time off to hold special sessions and organise training on how to elect Cluster Secretaries, what sort of qualities the Member Coolie families must look for in prospective candidates, etc.

1.3.3. ALP CLASSES

Community Workers and Village Level Workers in the Formation phase villages have taken the decision to conduct ALP Classes with a surprising seriousness. Classes have been running well, and the Area Field Workers make it a point to check attendance registers. Regular monitoring is being done in the Cluster Meets and overall reporting on progress takes place in the fortnightly Staff Meetings.

Unfortunately, the learners could not be tested during this reporting period because all the Staff were pre-occupied with other work.

However, we can confidently state that the discipline instilled by daily classes is helping Coolie Sangha building. A filtering of non-serious membership is also taking place. Those who find it difficult to sit with others on an equal footing are being weeded out of the nascent CSUs.

1.3.4. DECLARING INCOMES TO GAIN FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Member Coolie families from the erstwhile EZE Area in Chintamani are considering the introduction of Income Declaration in order to gain fiscal discipline. They do not want to start

paying Sangha Tax in these Formation and Formalisation phase CSUs, but feel that the declaration of annual incomes is the best instrument for self-monitoring progress.

1.3.5. CAPACITY BUILDING

There is a noticeable increase in the capacity of village functionaries and Cluster Secretaries in the erstwhile NOVIB and ICCO Areas. The Area Field Workers are, more and more, taking a back seat in the tackling of issues with *Ryots*, dealing with the police, etc.

Now that Chickballapur has broken the myth that only men can be effective as Taluk Secretaries, more and more Coolie women are aspiring to contest these organisational elections

1.4. Government Benefits

We record below a taluk/area wise list of government benefits that reached the Member Coolie families and their village CSUs. These figures present a very warped picture with some elected representatives and government functionaries pumping in a lot of moneys and benefits into their constituencies just before the general elections, and others totally ignoring their voters.

Government Benefits obtained in Chickballapur Taluk

| | Icco Area | NOVIB Area |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Houses under various schemes | 61 | 85 |
| House sites | 96 | 87 |
| Mini water supplies | 6 Villages | 6 Villages |
| IRDP loans | 23 | 99 |
| Pitching works | 12 Villages (680 metres) | 22 Villages (642 metres) |
| Old age pensions | 9 | 13 |
| <i>Bhagyajothi</i> electric connection | 40 houses | 71 houses |
| Primary Schools | 3 | 9 |
| Milk Collection Centres | 2 | 2 |
| Tools for Artisans | 18 | 10 |
| <i>Saguvadi Chittis</i> (free title deeds) | 12 | 25 |

Government Benefits obtained in Chintamani Taluk

| | Icco Area | NOVIB Area | EZE Area |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Houses under different schemes | 6 | 52 | 35 |
| House sites | 9 | 15 | 30 |
| IRDP Loans | – | 17 | 27 |
| Dairy Loans | – | 15 | – |
| Milk Collection Centre | – | – | 1 |
| Bhagyajothi electric connection | 16 | 41 | 85 |
| Pitching works | 100 metres | 2 | 6 Villages |
| Free borewells | – | 2 | 8 |
| Pensions | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Hostel seats | – | – | 23 |
| Mini Water Supply | 2 villages (Rs 30,000) | – | – |
| School buildings (DPEP) | 1 | – | 1 |
| Anganwadi School | – | – | 1 |
| Road works | 1 km | 1 km | 3 km |
| Horticulture plants | 15 acres | – | – |
| Saguvadi Chitti (free title deeds) | – | 20 | – |

Government Benefits obtained in Siddalaghatta Taluk

| | Icco Area | NOVIB Area | Sadali Area |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Houses under different schemes | 60 | | |
| Saguvadi Chittis (free title deeds) | 30 | | |
| IRDP loans | 65 | | |
| Pitching works | 1 Village (80 metres) | | |
| Bhagyajothi electric connection | 70 Houses | | |
| Pensions | 50 | | |
| Mini Water Supply | 6 Villages | | |

Government Benefits obtained in Julapalya & Mittemari

| | Julapalya | Mittemari |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Houses under different schemes | 12 | 47 |
| Other loans | – | 7 |
| Bhagyajothi electric connection | 4 | 18 |
| Saguvadi Chitti (free title deeds) | 25 | 5 |

2. COOLIE WOMEN**2.1. Women's Fund**

The Women's Committees met every fortnight in 3 taluks. For the past 2 months, the Chickballapur Committee of elected Women Members met every week to finalise Case Histories and concrete plans for supporting 125 single women. Committee meetings were a little irregular in Bagepalli taluk, for want of Mahila Trainers.

John Bowis, Executive Director of SCFNZ, during his week long visit to Bagepalli, helped ADATS finalise the application to the New Zealand Government's Voluntary Agency Support Scheme (VASS) in an attempt to augment the SCFNZ collections of Rs 3 million for the Women's Fund. If successful, we should have a total capital of Rs 12 million for the 4 taluks. It has been decided that the scheme to support landless women headed households will start in Chickballapur and then be extended to the remaining 3 taluks over the next 12 months.

The non-material achievements of the Women's Fund are quite visible and impressive. Coolie women have received an added boost to their organisation and struggle. Elected Women's Committee Members are slowly beginning to assume an importance on par with (male) Cluster Secretaries.

2.2. Training for VSD and Decentralised Budgets

Small groups of 25-30 women, from the erstwhile EZE Area, met for 5 days each at Chintamani to reflect on their Mahila Meetings and prepare themselves for starting the *Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu*. VSD grants of Rs 1,000 per village were released by ADATS at the end of each session.

The opportunity was also used to reflect on how the Mahila Meetings will start using their decentralised Children's and Health Budgets from April 1998 – the start of the 2nd Consortium Programme. They were given some procedural tips on scrutinising health bills, accompanying patients, checking child attendance, recording Minutes, etc.

2.3. One Child Policy

Many Mahila Meetings seriously discussed the population problem and related it to their own health and family welfare. As part of their discussions, they decided to try and implement a One Child Policy whereby Coolie women would be helped to undergo sterilisation even if their husbands and in-laws objected. They contemplated implementing a decision that no one would get health benefits or ambulance services for a second delivery. There has been only stray compliance, but ADATS was quick to point out that they should not consider the attempt to be a flop since this was a deeply ingrained cultural issue that will take time to gain shape and momentum. The very fact that Coolie women were, on their own, willing to discuss reproductive health issues was itself a commendable matter. It now has to be seen how these discussions develop.

2.4. New Gender Indicators

An interesting offshoot of the earlier mentioned grassroots discussions was an examination as to who controlled the ambulance services. All the Mahila Meetings started frank discussions on whether it was the VHW or woman CSU Representative who phoned the office for a jeep and accompanied the patient to hospital. Or had the male village functionaries usurped these powers?

They realised that, except in a few cases, the VHWs dished out first aid medicines and did the mundane work. But serious matters that involved more resources were left to the men...

Once again ADATS refused to pass judgement. The fact that Coolie women and their Mahila Meetings are slowly discerning new gender indicators is something that must be encouraged. Once these indicators identify the genuine situation we will, from the background, encourage Coolie women to take up remedial actions. But we are very clear that the effort must be totally theirs.

3. COOLIE CREDIT FUNDS

Status of the CCFs in the 4 Extensions (as on 31 March 1998)

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Total CCF Capital | 35,229,075 | 100% |
| Total of Good loans | 5,128,301 | 15% |
| Total of Overdue | 4,694,694 | 13% |
| 1 to 6 Months Late | 3,319,650 | 71% |
| 7 to 12 Months Late | 418,275 | 9% |
| Over 1 Year Late | 956,769 | 20% |
| Bank Balances | 25,406,080 | 72% |

- During the past 6 months, a mere 298 loans were given out, amounting to Rs 298,234. There has been no discernible movement in the CCFs after crop loans were given out in June/July 1997.
- The Coolies seem to have placed a total moratorium on CCF transactions in all the villages during the past 6 months. This has been a purely voluntary act on the part of the CSUs, chiefly due to the failure of rains and jitters about an uncertain year ahead, with the threat of an imminent famine. Borrower and lender confidence were at rock bottom during this reporting period.

CCF Utilisation Pattern (as on 31 March 1998)

| Purpose | Amount Borrowed | No of Loans |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Crop Loan | 7,240,445 | 29% 6,175 44% |
| Agriculture | 1,733,303 | 7% 712 5% |
| Cattle | 11,818,803 | 48% 4,539 32% |
| Trade & Entrepreneurship | 3,478,438 | 14% 2,118 15% |
| Consumption & others | 213,840 | 1% 353 3% |
| Total | 24,484,829 | 13,897 |

- There is a massive increase in CCF Capital with fresh grants of Rs 9,099,367¹ given out by ADATS to the village CCFs, toward the end of the just completed 1st Consortium Programme.
- As a result, rotation of capital has got stuck at a low 69.5%. This will rise again in the coming 6 months when crop loans are taken, etc.
- Repayment Rates have plummeted to an all low 80.83% and 13.33% of the capital is at risk. This seems to be a uniform phenomenon in all 4 taluks, though Chintamani fares marginally better. The March trend (discussed in the Special Progress Report of September 1997), crop failure and preoccupation with the national elections were the 3 reasons for drop in performance.
- However, there is a clear *willingness* to repay and borrow again. We expect Repayment Rate figures to climb up in the coming months to settle at a more healthy 90%, bringing the Capital at Risk figure to a more acceptable 5%.

¹ This figure will not tally with the Financial Report since it includes interest earned in the village CCF bank accounts.

CCF Performance (as on 31 March 1998)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| CCF Capital | Rs 35,229,075 |
| Cumulative loans given | Rs 24,484,829 |
| Rotation of Capital | 69.5 % |
| Number of Loans | 13,897 |
| Average Borrowing | Rs 1,762 |
| Repayment Rate | 80.83 % |
| Capital at Risk | 13.33 % |

4. SANGHA FUNDS**4.1. For the 4 Extension Areas**

From a figure of Rs 9.45 million recorded in the 5th Progress Report, Sangha Funds further grew to Rs 10.20 million. This moderate increase of 8% in 6 months was due to crop failure, lack of generation of new Sangha Funds from the CCFs (which hardly operated) and Sangha Tax which have not yet been paid as on 31 March 1998.

Sangha Funds for the 4 Extensions (as on 31 March 1998)

| | <i>Last Report</i> | 31 March 1998 | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Village Fixed Deposits | 3,282,538.00 | 7,268,238.00 | |
| Village SB Accounts | 5,049,263.45 | 1,721,609.65 | |
| Taluk Main Fixed Deposits | 281,464.00 | 1,204,464.00 | |
| Taluk Main SB Accounts | 839,178.95 | 9,452,444.40 | 10,658.95 10,204,970.60 |

4.2. For the entire Area of Operation

In the Special Progress Report written in September 1997 we gave Sangha Fund figures for the entire area of operation of ADATS and the Coolie Sangha. The following figures are NOT ONLY for the 4 Extension Programme Areas.

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Village Fixed Deposits | Rs 13,130,494.00 | |
| Village SB Accounts | 2,087,909.10 | |
| Taluk main Fixed Deposits | 1,492,079.00 | |
| Taluk Main SB Account | 53,401.25 | Rs 16,763,883.35 |

- Sangha Funds have crossed Rs 16.76 million.
- Unutilised moneys remaining with each village CSU at the end of every financial year is placed in Fixed Deposits to build up a decentralised village level corpus fund for the Coolie Sangha. This is a conscious policy decision and not an accident arising from any lack of need/utilisation capacity. 87% of Sangha Funds are in Fixed Deposits. This total of Rs 14.6 million is just about Rs 5 million short of the psychological target that the Coolies have set for themselves.
- These Fixed Deposits are organisational savings in the respective names of over 700 village CSUs, and will never be transferred to any other CSU. Interest earned from the FDs accrue to the respective CSU, and add to the current year's

Sangha Fund of that village CSU. After the withdrawal of ADATS, these incomes will be used to self-finance the CSUs.

- This impressive total of Rs 16,763,883 has been collected by the Coolies themselves through 4 sources:
 - Rs 6,459,842 (39%) has been collected in *Hundis* (dumb boxes) placed at each village CSU. These voluntary contributions made by Member Coolie families is the bulk of Sangha Funds.
Included in this figure is the interest earned from earlier FDs.
Also included is about Rs 0.2 million contributed by Swiss supporters of the Coolie Sangha.
 - Rs 5,899,960 (35%) has been mobilised through CCF loans when borrowers pay 10% of their loan amount to the Sangha Fund.
 - Rs 2,858,606 (17%) has been contributed through Sangha Tax.
 - Rs 1,545,480 (9%) has been collected in the 4 Taluk level *Hundis* and are general collections to the Coolie Sangha as a whole.
- No moneys from ADATS or any other external source (except for the Swiss supporters) has gone to make up the Sangha Funds.
- 60.8% of the total Sangha Funds has been contributed by the 4 Extension Areas, with the independent CSUs of Bagepalli taluk owning the rest.

4.3. Sangha Tax

- There has been a steady rise in the number of Coolie families who have declared their annual incomes. The 1997 figures, which presently stand at 92% of the previous year's, will rise in the month of April and May 1998.
- 1995 saw a fall in average income declared. But the fall has been much steeper in 1997 due to the drought and crop failure.
- Only 16% of those who declared their 1997 annual incomes have paid Sangha Tax as on 31 March 1998. Crop failure and pre-occupation with the national elections are the main reasons for this.
However, indications are that compliance will gradually rise to over 80% in the months of April and May 1998.
- The average Sangha Tax paid has dropped by about Rs 50. Along with a lower compliance rate, the financial year 1998-99 is going to be a very difficult one for the Coolies with considerably less revenue on account of Sangha Tax. As at 31 March 1998, collections stand at a very meagre 16% of the previous year's.

Analysis of Sangha Tax paid (as on 31 March)

| INCOME DECLARED | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Number of Families who Declared their Annual Incomes | 2,877 | 4,603 | 5,351 | 4,913 |
| <i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i> | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>160%</i> | <i>116%</i> | <i>92%</i> |
| Total Income Declared | Rs 12,370,011 | Rs 18,471,088 | Rs 23,336,726 | Rs 17,761,252 |
| <i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i> | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>149%</i> | <i>126%</i> | <i>76%</i> |
| Average Income Declared | Rs 4,300 | Rs 4,013 | Rs 4,361 | Rs 3,615 |
| <i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i> | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>93%</i> | <i>109%</i> | <i>83%</i> |
| TAX PAID | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| Number of Families who paid Sangha Tax | 2,308 | 4,344 | 4,755 | 924 |
| <i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i> | <i>n.a.</i> | <i>188%</i> | <i>109%</i> | <i>19%</i> |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Declared/Paid (Compliance Rate)</i> | 80% | 94% | 89% | 19% |
| Total Sangha Tax paid | Rs 510,680 | Rs 1,008,467 | Rs 1,159,404 | Rs 180,055 |
| <i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i> | <i>n.a.</i> | 197% | 115% | 16% |
| Average Sangha Tax paid | Rs 221 | Rs 232 | Rs 244 | Rs 195 |
| <i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i> | <i>n.a.</i> | 105% | 105% | 80% |
| Actual Tax Paid / Income | 5.15% | 5.79% | 5.59% | 5.39% |
| <i>Supposed to Pay (as per BCS Decision)</i> | 6% | 6% | 8% | 8% |

5. DRY LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

5.1. DLDP Works

- As per the 2nd Consortium Application, the 1998 DLDP works were supposed to start in a total of 195 CSUs. Since works were planned for the months of March, April and May, it was decided in the December 1997 Consortium Meeting that efforts would be made by the funding partners to try and anticipate the sanction of at least this component of the programme by 4-6 weeks (i.e. to mid February 1998). How this was not possible due to several administrative and other reasons.
- However, the Coolie Sangha decided that DLDP works would start on schedule, in the month of March, but DLDP wage payments could be deferred till April. In the meantime, they decided that each land owner would borrow from her respective CCF to pay wages. These CCF loans would get cleared once DLDP payments were made by ADATS.
- Accordingly, DLDP Plans were made for 192 villages, and actual works started in 171 village CSUs.
- Most of the erstwhile NOVIB Area villages (in the Formalisation phase of Coolie Sangha building) started working in mid February 1998.
- The payment of Sangha Tax and regularisation/renewal of Membership came in the way of the erstwhile ICCO Area villages (which were in the Consolidation and post-withdrawal phases). Therefore works could start only in March 1998.
- In Bagepalli taluk, works did not start till April 1998.
- Huge CCF Overdue came in the way of starting works in 21 villages – though ADATS did not insist, they voluntarily declared that they had no moral right to use their CCFs to take advance wage payments when they had been irregular in the repayment of earlier crop and other loans.
However, this does not mean that everyone took such a principled stand – most villages where the DLDP is presently being implemented have substantial CCF Overdue.

DLDP Works as on 31 March 1998

| Taluk/Area | As per 2nd Consortium Application | Plans Given | Works Started |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Chickballapur | 44 | 44 | 35 |
| Chintamani | 63 | 63 | 57 |
| Siddalaghatta | 49 | 50 | 50 |
| Julapalya/Mittemari | 28 | 23 | 18 |
| Bagepalli | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| | 195 | 192 | 171 |

- DLDP Staff continue to go to the work spots every day and check on attendance registers and give technical advice. They also record the actual works carried out, so that we can report on quantitative achievements in the next Progress Report.
- Last year's failure of rains and crop failure has hit everyone very badly and near-famine conditions prevail in the region. DLDP works, apart from being a land improvement activity, are also being looked upon as a relief operation.

5.2. Dry Land Horticulture

A pilot project is being undertaken in 7 villages of Bagepalli taluk. 135 families have built as many Field Tanks on their plots and planted year-old mango saplings on 157 acres that they have put aside for dry land horticulture.

7 existing water sources (open wells, borewells, pits, etc.) were identified and officially made into properties of the respective CSU. No compensation was paid to the previous owners of these water sources. 7 bullock carts were fabricated, water tanks fitted onto them, and bullocks bought. These were handed over to selected Member Coolie families who agreed to haul water to the Field Tanks once/twice a week for 5-6 summer months.

The entire activity has been funded by the Coolies' own resources, supplemented by loans taken from their respective CCFs. Anandi Sharan-Meili, a member of the ADATS Core Group, has mobilised funds for purchasing saplings, buying bullocks, etc. No Consortium moneys have been used for this activity.

Dr. N.H. Ravindranath from the Centre for Ecological Studies (CES) of the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, is the technical advisor who will monitor the activity from a sequestration point of view. Tony DiNicola from Counterpart International, Washington DC, is the ADATS representative in the U.S., responsible for promoting the activity at a global level.

The pilot project is aimed at studying:

- Whether Coolie families have sufficient environmental awareness and economic motivation to give up traditional cropping and take up to planting trees.
- Whether Coolie families have sufficient functional unity and managerial acumen to set aside 1 acre each and manage common watering arrangements.
- Whether dry land orchards consisting of mango and tamarind trees will survive in this semi-arid drought prone desert-like region.
- Whether these orchards do indeed have a Carbon sequestration benefit.

Status of the Dry Land Horticulture Pilot Programme (31 March 1998)

| Village CSU | Families | Acres | Planted | Dead | Alive | Survival |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 035 Palyakere HC | 22 | 24 | 960 | 394 | 566 | 59% |
| 036 Mandyampalli | 22 | 22 | 880 | 115 | 765 | 87% |
| 040 Kothurupalli | 20 | 25 | 1,000 | 133 | 867 | 87% |
| 044 M.K. Thanda | 20 | 21 | 840 | 259 | 581 | 69% |
| 070 Chinnaganapalli | 16 | 21 | 840 | 242 | 598 | 71% |
| 074 Devaramakalapalli | 19 | 24 | 960 | 310 | 650 | 68% |
| 015 Nakkalapalli | 16 | 20 | 800 | 168 | 632 | 79% |
| 7 Villages | 135 | 157 | 6,280 | 1,621 | 4,659 | 74% |

- 6,280 saplings were planted in the 2nd week of June 1997. 4,659 plants are alive and 1,621 are dead. But it is too early to boast a survival rate of 74% since the hot summer months have only just begun. We will know the exact mortality rates by July/August 1998 with the onset of the monsoons, 1 year after planting.
- 54 families have achieved an impressive record of saving more than 35 plants per acres. 7 of them have managed to keep all 40 plants per acre alive and thriving! Mandyampalli and Kothurupalli CSUs have the best performance, with 87% survival rate.
- 7 of the 135 families have managed to lose all 40 plants. Palyakere HC CSU has recorded the worst performance, with 59% survival. This is bound to get worse by the end of this summer.
- Nakkalapalli CSU has chronic problems with the Member family they have chosen to manage the bullocks and cart. Chinnaganapalli CSU has chronic problems with the bullocks themselves!

An extremely alarming observation is that Ryot families are showing far more interest in the activity than Coolie families. This reminds us of our 1983-85 efforts to introduce cross-bred cows into the taluk. We did succeed in demonstrating that exotic and high yielding milch animals can survive in this region. We succeeded in getting the government to set up a milk collection infrastructure. Today, there are thousands of cross-bred cows in the taluk. But hardly any Coolie families own cows.

Dr. Ravindranath, CES, will shortly be doing a technical review of the activity from a Carbon sequestration point of view, using the REFOREST model.

Tony DiNicola will use the Government of India and USIJI approval for the activity to attract AIJ investments to the tune of US\$ 1 million in order to assist 2,500 Member Coolie families from 125 village CSUs.