

0316. 10th Progress Report on the Consortium Programme (Sep 2000)

1. COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

1.1. Membership & Coverage

With just 6 months to go to complete the ongoing 2nd 3 year Consortium Programme, we have surpassed targets in terms of villages as well as CSU membership.

- There are now 588 functioning village CSUs, against a target of 507. (16% increase over the programme target)
- 15,081 families are active Members in these villages, against a target of 14,590. (3% increase).

Moreover, these are figures of stable membership, unlikely to fall or fluctuate.

Membership & Coverage as on 30 September 2000

	2 nd Consortium Application	Last Report	This Report
1st 3 year Formation phase	73	62	62
2nd 3 year Formalisation phase	326	120	120
3rd 3 year Consolidation phase	26	247	249
Independent CSUs	82	152	157
Total Villages	507	581	588
Normal Member Families	14,590	14,729	15,081
Women Memberships	3,211 (22%)	4,127 (28%)	4,235 (28%)
Coverage of Village Population	38%	26%	28%

The Ethnic Composition of the village CSUs is as follows.

- 60% of the Member Coolie families are Harijans and Tribals.
- 21% belong to the Middle Castes (shepherds, weavers, blacksmiths, barbers, washer folk, etc.¹).
- 19% are poor families belonging to Forward Castes.

Ethnic Cover figures are as follows:

- SC/ST families comprise 48% of the region's population. 35% of them are CSU Members.
- Middle Caste families comprise 21% of the region's population. 29% of them are CSU Members.
- Forward Caste families comprise 31% of the region's population. 16% of them are CSU Members.

¹ For the sake of convenience, Muslims have been included in this category in our database.

Ethnic Composition of the Membership as on 30 September 2000

Member Families	Percent in CSUs	Caste Group	Total Families		Ethnic Coverage
9,090	60%	Scheduled Castes/Tribes	26,203	48%	35%
3,217	21%	Middle Castes	11,175	21%	29%
2,774	19%	Forward Castes	16,967	31%	16%
15,081	100%		54,345	100%	28%

1.2. Regularity of Cluster Meets

Cluster Meets in 81 central villages were held with a 68% regularity every week. ADATS Field Workers attended these working meetings in order to assist elected Cluster Secretaries and Women's Committee Members receive individual village reports, ratify decisions, and act as a link between ADATS and the Coolie Sangha.

Chickballapur Taluk recorded the highest performance. This was because Chickballapur, which had been going through a slump with poor CCF Repayment Rates, low tax paid, inability to implement DLDP works, *et al*, made serious efforts to set things right. In fact, only 6% of the weekly meetings were cancelled.

Regularity of Cluster Meets

Area	Clusters	Total	Regular	Irregular	Cancelled
Chintamani	81	908 (100%)	619 (68%)	114 (13%)	145 (16%)
Chickballapur	25	652 (100%)	497 (76%)	117 (18%)	38 (6%)
Siddalaghatta	20	520 (100%)	339 (65%)	81 (16%)	100 (19%)
Total	81	908 (100%)	619 (68%)	114 (13%)	145 (16%)

1.3. Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings

All the Taluk level meetings were held quite regularly during this reporting period. Preoccupation with agricultural work and heavy rains did not cause any outright cancellation. Instead, a few were held for just 1 day instead of the customary 2 days and 1 night.

Women's Committee Members and Cluster Secretaries reported on the highlights of their respective Clusters and invited constructive criticism. Apart from monitoring the outputs of different ADATS programmes, effects/outcome were also analysed. The following is a synopsis of discussions/decisions:

- Subject Matter Cells on Cancellation/Dropout, Agriculture and Off-Farm presented their monthly reports.
- Each and every village CSU reflected on lessons learnt through the pilot phase of the Dry Land Horticulture Programme. They made specific village level plans to implement the activity on a larger scale in the event of funding being procured. These plans were presented to the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings. They included details on water source, transportation, plant varieties/numbers, etc.
- Discussed the role of the Coolie Sangha in the recently held Taluk Panchayat Elections where candidates they supported won only in 2 Taluks.
- Finalised list villages where the Economic Literacy Campaign (ELC) would be conducted, based on availability of efficient facilitators and interest level of participants.

- Decided to immediately withdraw all the paid village Staff, except Village Health Workers, to bring back a spirit of volunteerism in the Coolie Sangha.
- Monitored problems arising from male resistance to hand over total cheque signatory powers over all Coolie Sangha bank accounts to Coolie women selected by the Mahila Meetings.
- Chintamani Taluk Coolie Sangha Meeting discussed the Kambalapalli incident thread-bare to analyse the reasons for 7 Harijans getting burnt alive.
- Chintamani Taluk Coolie Sangha staged a dharna in front of the police station and demanded the immediate arrest of culprits responsible for the death of a woman in Agrahalli village.
- Chickballapur Taluk Coolie Sangha staged a dharna in front of the Tahsildar's office and demanded the early issue of land titles to CSU Members from Kanganahalli.
- Chickballapur Taluk Coolie Sangha took out a rally protesting the hike in kerosene prices.

1.4. Executive Committee Meetings

There is now a total sex parity at the fortnightly Executive Committee Meetings with an elected Women's Committee Member and an elected (mostly male) Cluster Secretary representing each Cluster. They monitored the implementation of the ADATS/Coolie Sangha Action Plan to follow up on Stocktaking recommendations.

- Provided assistance to the different Subject Matter Cells and assessed monthly reports presented to the respective Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings.
- ADATS Staff provided management tools for assessing performance of various projects in their respective Clusters.
- Women's Committee Members suggested that certain topics be included in the training of VHWs, for upgrading their skills to be on par with that of the withdrawn VLWs.
- Monitored the Economic Literacy Campaign (ELC) classes.
- Made lists of government benefits available in order to negotiate with the State Government.
- Suggestion given by Dirk van Esbroeck in his draft Evaluation Report to the EU were critically discussed.
Reviewed the performance of the CCFs using his 4 square matrix.
- Chintamani Executive Committee selected villages based on parameters like CCF and DLDP performance, nature of work, silt availability, interest level, etc. for the VASS, New Zealand, supported DLDP.

1.5. Staff & Functionary Development

As part of our Action Plan to implement recommendations contained in the Stocktaking exercise, we decide to improve the efficiency of annual Review Meetings conducted at each Cluster with better Effect Monitoring tools.

10 sessions were held, for 1 day every week, by the Project Director on the principles behind Management by Objectives. "Toolkits" (*Save the Children*), "Building Bridges..." (*Icco, EZE, and other ecumenical organisations*) and material downloaded from USAID websites were translated and used as resource material. Concepts were introduced, terminology clarified, and a mind-set instilled for Management by Objectives.

We were pleasantly surprised when our endeavour coincided with efforts being made by Icco, with assistance from Ben Haagsma of I/C Consult, to introduce an effect monitoring system in land and water management programmes.

Ajit Mani from INTERVENTION was contracted to conduct skill up-gradation workshops for ADATS Staff and Coolie Sangha functionaries, and accompany us while we implemented a proper monitoring plan in the 2 organisations. Save the Children, New Zealand, has agreed to meet the costs of the 17 month long exercise.

1.6. Review Meetings

Annual Cluster level Review Meetings were put on hold this year in order to streamline them with the just mentioned Staff Development efforts. This is the first time in our 23 year history that 5 active Member Coolies from each village CSU, along with their elected Representatives, have not sat together at each Cluster to pore through various OnLine Reports, their own Minutes Books, etc. and made policy and programme recommendations to ADATS.

However, 1 day Review Meeting were conducted by all the Women's Fund beneficiaries at their respective Taluk headquarters during this reporting period.

1.7. Training Sessions

- 1 week residential training was given for volunteer Teachers selected to facilitate the Economic Literacy Campaign (ELC) classes.
- 1 day sessions were conducted for all CSU Members at each Cluster to share the final project application approved by VASS, New Zealand.
- VHWs from the erstwhile EZE Area of Chintamani Taluk were given training for 1 day on their role in CSU building, in the light of withdrawal of all paid village Staff.
- 10 sessions were held, for 1 day every week, by the Project Director on the principles behind Management by Objectives.
"Toolkits" (Save the Children) and "Building Bridges" (Icco, EZE and other ecumenical organisations) were translated and used as resource material.
- The proceedings of the Anantapur Workshop on developing an Effect Monitoring System in Land & Water Management Programmes (Ben Haagsma, I/C Consult) was exhaustively shared with all the Staff.
All ADATS Staff are together finalising the ToR to contract Agriculture Man & Ecology (AME), Bangalore, to inventorise the prevailing farming systems in the region.

1.8. Government Benefits

The village CSUs have, throughout the past 2 ½ years, been fairly successful in obtaining government benefits from the Gram and Taluk Panchayats. This strength has been consolidated by their success in the December 1999 GP elections. Member Coolie families are no more at the mercy of village touts and political patronage to get their just share of anti-poverty benefits and civic services.

Government Benefits obtained in Chickballapur Taluk

	Erstwhile Icco Area	Erstwhile Novib Area
Houses under various schemes	10	15
Artisan Tools	5 families	6 families
Compensation	Rs 10,000 (20 families)	Rs 15,000 (30 families)
Anganwadi Schools	2	2
Pitching Works	500 metres	1,000 metres
Mini Water Supply	-	3 villages
Bore wells under SC/ST schemes	2	6

Government Benefits obtained in Chintamani Taluk

	Erstwhile Icco Area	Erstwhile Novib Area	Erstwhile EZE Area
Houses under various schemes	18	39	32
Various Pensions	19	27	28
Bhagyajothi Electric Connections	12	32	22
Cattle Ponds	3 villages	5 villages	7 villages
Pitching Works	50 metres	280 metres	290 metres
Mini Water Supply	1 villages	3 villages	6 villages
Bore wells under SC/ST schemes	-	-	2

Government Benefits obtained in Siddalaghatta Taluk

	Erstwhile Icco Area	Erstwhile Novib Area	Sadali Area
Houses under various schemes	20	30	41
Various Pensions	12	16	22
Bhagyajothi Electric Connections	24	71	35
Repair to drains	6 villages	12 villages	6 villages
Cattle Ponds	2 villages	16 villages	4 villages
Pitching Works	75 metres	420 metres	250 metres
Mini Water Supply	6 villages	14 villages	12 villages
Community Halls	-	1 village	1
Bore wells electricity connections	3 villages	16 villages	10 villages

1.9. Issues & Struggles

The vast majority of CSUs have been successful in getting the neutral population to join hands with them in tackling general issues like fighting for common property resources, against arbitrary price rise, etc. The general public in the villages have developed a confidence in the staying power of the Coolie Sangha.

CSUs exhibit a versatile resilience or staying power in a wide range of situations. Member Coolie families manage internal crisis arising from opportunism in ADATS Staff and Coolie Sangha functionaries in a matter of fact manner. They refuse to buckle under funding uncertainties and a range of related problems. They tackle natural calamities like drought with an aplomb and confidence. They face fascist forces and the ground translation of pro-rich market policies with a determination. Coolie Sangha has also developed enough liaison skills to take up joint actions. Problems had been analysed more logically and systematically. But the coolie Sangha yet to develop certain management tools and techniques to communicate their

achievements to general public and other stakeholders. Following are some of the issues the CSUs had been dealt with during the reporting period.

- In Rampampathotti CSU, under the pretext of investigating illicit brewing of liquor, the assistants of an arrack contractor took away Rs 2,300 from CSU Member Chinna Venkataswamy's house. Chinna Venkataswamy approached the contractor along with some eye witnesses, to seek justice. The contractor strongly defended his people and threatened Chinna Venkataswamy with serious trouble if he insisted on blaming his henchmen.

But when one of the eye witnesses revealed that he belonged to Coolie Sangha, the contractor immediately apologised and asked his henchmen to return the amount.
- In Korlaparthu CSU, the ration shopkeeper was deceiving some non CSU illiterate people by manipulating their ration cards. CSU Members came to know about this and literate Members went through the wrong entries. They caught the shopkeeper red handed when he tried to manipulate their cards and threatened to complaint to the concerned officials and get his license cancelled. The shopkeeper apologised and promised to be sincere in future.
- At Appasanahalli village, due to lack of place, people used to bury their dead in the same pits. CSU members approached the concerned officials to grant them a proper burial site. In the process, they have come to know that a portion of the burial lands had been encroached upon by a local *Ryot*.

The CSU is presently planning a course of action to get this back.
- At Naramakalapalli CSU, the government had stopped old age pension of 3 persons, quite abruptly. After enquiry it was found that somebody had misinformed the concerned officer. The beneficiaries would not come under the eligibility list as they were getting same benefit from the CSU. After explaining the facts, CSU Members took the officer to task for taking a hasty decision based on unreliable rumours. They left the place only after he assured them of not repeating his mistakes.
- In Nagendrahalli Colony village, a local *Ryot* had encroached 2 acres of village forest land and created false documents for it. Knowing this, CSU Members prevented him from ploughing the land. On the same night the enraged *Ryot* himself set fire to one of his empty huts and gave a police complaint accusing CSU Members. When the police went to the village for a spot inspection, the whole villager stood behind the CSU Members and gave a favourable report. They succeeded in reversing the complaint.
- In Muthkadahalli CSU, Akkayamma had left her 1 acre of land barren as her all 3 children were hospitalised. CSU Members took initiative to plough and sow her land without waiting for a formal request from Akkayamma.
- In Marappanahall village a small piece of land had been used as a common place to dump waste for many years. The present Gram Panchayat *Adhyaksh* (president) tried to build a house on that plot. When the villagers approached him, he said that the land actually belonged to him and produced his documents; he claimed that he had, all these years, allowed the public to use it out of the goodness of his heart. CSU Members smelt a rat. They went to Taluk Office, procured the village map and brought the survey officer. The survey exposed the misdeeds of Gram Panchayat and voters are now repenting their decision to elect this candidate against the CSU candidate.
- CSU Members of Kothur village were asked by the officials of National Family Welfare Scheme to make a list of deserving widows to benefit a government scheme. The CSU identified 12 non-CSU persons and 7 CSU Members.

- In Hirekattigenahalli, Shantamma, a Harijana woman, got an appointment order from the Child Development Project Office to work as a teacher at the local *Anganwadi* (under-5 crèche). After 10 days, she got another letter stating that her appointment had been cancelled. After enquiries, Shantamma came to know that the Project Officer took the decision based on objections raised by upper caste people in the village. The very next day all the CSU Members went to officer and questioned his decision. To pacify the furious members, Shantamma was offered the same job in another village. But the CSU Members rejected the compromise and stood firm on their demand. After a lot of arguments, the officer explained them the problem he had to face when he went against the wishes of village leaders. CSU Members convinced him that it was they he needed to fear more. Finally, he agreed to their demand and Shantamma was appointed as Anganwadi Teacher in the same village.
- In 1987 the government had given ownership document of a particular site in Jam-bapura village under the free sites scheme to Nagamma's husband. But in spite of several requests, the concerned official did not show him the specific site. Nagamma's husband never discussed this issue with his wife or in the village CSU Meeting. After his death, nobody pursued the matter. Recently while cleaning her house, Nagamma found the ownership document and brought it to the CSU Meeting. After a thorough follow-up by CSU Members, they discovered that that a local Ryot had laid his foundation to build a house on the allotted site. The issue has not yet been settled during the reporting period.
- At Chikkakattigenahalli CSU, Member Narayanappa decided to sell a part of his land to meet dowry demands to marry his daughter. CSU Members convinced the bridegroom and brought down marriage expenses from Narayanappa's earlier planned budget of Rs 40,000 to Rs 15,000.
- In Doddakondrahalli village the condition of connecting road between Harijana Colony and the main village were very bad. CSU Members from both, Harijana Colony and Main Village, work for a day and repaired it after they failed to get the things done through the Gram Panchayat.
- CSU Members of Nallagutlahalli village succeeded in preventing the local contractor from claiming the bill twice for the same road work that he had done.
- CSU Members belonging to Mylapura Gram Panchayat, succeeded in convincing other GP Members to spend the GP budget in accordance to the actual needs of different vil-lages. They put a stop to the earlier practice of equally dividing all available amounts to all the villages. They also convinced everyone not to spend GP funds on a temple renovation work. In- stead it will be used to implement a much needed pitching work.
- In Bidiganahalli CSU, member Nagaraja had been cultivating his 4 acres of land for the past 15 years. 3 months back, Obayya, a non-CSU person who owned the adjacent land, prevented him from ploughing his land. He showed documents to claim ownership rights over Nagaraja's land. After enquiry, the CSU Members found that Nagaraja's father had bought the land from Obayya's father, but had not changed the documents in his favour since he owed a bal- ance of Rs 5,000. As long as Obayya's father was alive, he did not object to Nagaraja cultivating the land. But immediately after his death, the son got greedy. CSU Members finally drummed a compromise. Nagaraja was to pay Obayya Rs 25,000 and the documents would be changed in Nagaraja's favour. They dug into their purses

and gave him a hand loan of Rs 8,000 and a CCF loan of another Rs 7,000. Nagarja had to manage the rest.

- In Boomishettihalli, 7 houses of CSU Members collapsed due to heavy rains. Other CSU Members gave them shelter in their houses for 15 days till alternative arrangement were made.
- In Shettivarapalli village a water tank was sanctioned under a rural water supply scheme. Using political influence and bribing officials, *Ryots* installed it near their houses, causing inconvenience to the majority of villagers. Deprived villagers approached the CSU. In response to their appeal, the CSU approached the Executive Officer of the Taluk Panchayat and questioned the logic behind his decision. The EO said that he did not find any other government place. After a lot of arguments, the EO finally agreed to shift the tank provided he was shown a proper place. The CSU has finally succeeded in installing the water tank at a place which is convenient to the whole village.
- In Shettivarahalli Cluster, election for the Milk Collection Society Secretary led to caste clashes between two groups. Senior CSU Members prevented newly joined CSU Members from joining the issue. Since both sides failed to muster a following, an amicable solution was found.
- In Ragimakalapalli CSU, Member Shivanna tried to build a house in a place which had been used as a common shelter place for domestic cattle. CSU Members prevented him from his illegal action in spite of him being “one of them”.
- At N Kothur, 25 acres of land reserved for social forestry was used for cultivation by some *Ryots*. Since the land was distributed between two different Taluks, there was no co-ordination between forest department officials. *Ryots* took full advantage of the confusion. In order to prevent deforestation, CSU Members formed themselves into a Tree Growers Association. They included villagers of the other Taluk and gave them key positions in the Association. They approached the forest officials and explained their intention. The officials agreed to give them free saplings and other inputs. The Association faced stiff opposition from the *Ryots*. Anticipating foul play, they have appointed a full time watchman.
- In Kothur, a local *Ryot* was cultivating 5 acres of land which was actually a dried up village pond. CSU Members were discussing common property resources in their village meetings. Anticipating problems, the *Ryot* quickly sold the land to a stranger by creating false documents in connivance with the Revenue Secretary. He then re-sold the same land to yet another person.
When taking position, both buyers started fighting and brought the Taluk Survey Officer to identify their land. This brought the entire episode to light and the whole village came to know. They prevented both so-called buyers from occupying the land.
- In Ramapatna ‘B’, CSU Member Padiganna’s son was demanding his share of property since he wanted to live separately after his marriage. But Padiganna refused in spite of several requests from the CSU members. 2 months back, the son was found murdered in a field. Expecting to be accused, Padiganna pleaded with the CSU to save him. CSU and Mahila Members agreed to support him, on the pre condition that he gave his widowed daughter-in-law whatever the dead son had been demanding. The CSU convinced the police that Padiganna was innocent.
- In Gadigavarapalli village, the Postman was robbing Old Age Pensions by forging thumb impressions of beneficiaries. Whenever beneficiaries enquired about their due, he used to give some explanations. CSU Members went to the Taluk Office and found

that moneys had been disbursed regularly. CSU Members forced the Postman to sell 1 acre of his land and repay the moneys to the beneficiaries.

- The Dadamghatta village school with nearly 130 students had only 2 teachers, one of them on part time appointment. When the several requisitions to the concerned department failed, the villagers staged a *dharna* with the local MLA. They got his written assurance that more teachers would be appointed.
- Yerrahalli village was prone to frequent outbreaks of disease due to blocked drains. They spent a lot of money on hospitals and nobody was taking initiative to rectify the problem. The *Ryot* who took a contract to repair the drain was least bothered. Finally, the CSU members volunteered a day of free labour and did it themselves.
- In Anjinapura, VHW Narasamma had given one of her house to a non CSU person as a temporary arrangement when his house collapsed due to heavy rain. He refused to vacate the house, claiming that he had bought the house from her for Rs 10,000. CSU Member went in support of Narasamma and he complained to the police saying that he was attacked. The local Police knew about the CSU, and refused to entertain the obviously false complaint. CSU Representatives approached the Police and explained them the real facts. The Police ordered the non CSU person to immediately vacate the house and threatened to book him for giving false complaints.
- In the Thimmasandra GP Meeting which is controlled by the Coolie Sangha, it was decided to build a bus shelter from the budget allocated to build the temple.
- Mallashettipalli CSU members succeeded in arresting a *Ryot* who was exploiting some non CSU children and forcing them to work as bonded labourers.
- In Saddahalli, CSU Member Venkatarayappa had taken a loan of Rs 10,000 from the Primary Land Development Bank to dig a pond, 15 years back. He had utilised the loan properly and succeeded in finding water to irrigate his fields. But he did not re-pay the loan.
3 months back, the PLD Bank issued him a notice saying they would auction his property and recover the dues. Venkatarayappa requested CSU Members to recommend to the Bank that his loan be written off.
CSU Members outright rejected his request. They also threatened that he would be ineligible to receive CCF loans if he failed to pay his PLD Bank dues.

2. COOLIE WOMEN

2.1. Mahila Meetings

With some exceptions, Mahila Meetings were held regularly and the quality of discussions was high. VHWs and Women's Committee Members took initiative in organising not only Mahila Meetings but even CSU Meetings. The Women's Funds have been used as instruments to firmly establish the claim and position of women in the Coolie Sangha.

VHWs and Women's Committee Members have dealt with public institutions and availed various benefits from the government. Newly elected women GP Members have succeeded in breaking the myth that illiterate women in managing political institutions will be puppets in the hands of men. Mahila Meetings have followed the problems and progress of these women on a regular basis, and given them terrific support.

A total reservation policy has been adopted in the Coolie Sangha. All male Village Level Workers (VLWs) and Teachers were withdrawn. 3 of the 5 elected Taluk Secretaries are women. VHWs have proved to be equal to the withdrawn VLWs. ADATS does not pay the

stipend of a single village Staff – VHWS are appointed and paid for by the Mahila Meetings themselves from each CSU's Sangha Funds².

In a word, one gets the definite feeling in the past 6 months that Mahila Meetings have made Coolie women visible!

2.2. Women's Issues

A chief function of the Mahila Meetings has been to protect Coolie women from getting cheated. The 1st example goes to show how the Mahila Meeting protects property. The 2nd one, position and recognition of woman's efforts.

- Narayanamma of Byalahalli CSU had left her 2 acre of land barren ever since her husband died 10 years ago. Taking the advantage of this, a non CSU person tried to occupy it. Narayanamma explained her problem in the Mahila Meeting. Coolie women decided to support Narayanamma and physically prevented the encroacher.
- CSU member Ramakka, a Harijana woman, is the Adhyaksh (president) of Uppugatahalli GP. She has become quite popular in the surrounding villages due to her efficiency and sincerity. Upper caste people of the village could not bear this. Recently, a public bore well had been sanctioned to the village through Ramakka's efforts. By giving a false report about the general availability of drinking water in the village, those upper caste people got the Taluk Panchayat to cancel the sanction. With the support of CSU Members, Ramakka succeeded in getting it re-sanctioned. Now, everyone in the village have come to know about the foul trick played by upper caste people, and Ramakka has become even more popular.

Most issues taken up by the Mahila Meetings are of very personal nature. They affect individual families in a very deep manner. The Mahila Meetings have, through the tackling of these problems, made the Coolie Sangha reach deep. 3 typical examples:

- Masanapalli CSU Member Chinna Venkateshappa had adopted his brother's daughter, Gangulamma, as he did not have children. Gangulamma married Ramappa of Varasandra village and couple live in Chinna Venkateshappa's house. After Chinna Venkateshappa's died, Gangulamma asked her biological father to give her due share of property. But he refused. Gangulamma decided to go to court and requested the Mahila Meeting to support her with legal aid from ADATS. Instead of blindly doing so, the Mahila members called the Father and explained the consequences of taking problems to Court, at the personal as well as CSU level. Sensing the Mahila Meeting's determination, the Father agreed to give a share to Gangulamma.
- In Kondenahalli CSU, a boy from the nearby village agreed to marry the VHW's daughter. But after some days he refused to marry her giving some excuse or the other. The Mahila Meeting investigated the matter and found out that somebody else had promised the boy a dowry of Rs 20,000. They succeeded in convincing the boy that it was all false promise and the marriage went ahead.
- In Saddahalli, the VHW's daughter lost her husband in an accident within a year of marriage. She was already 2 month pregnant. She wanted to get married again and explained her intention in the Mahila meeting. The Mahila Meeting arranged for a secret abortion, later informed her mother, and finally succeeded in finding a boy from Attoor to marry the young widow.

The faith that Coolie women have in the ability of the Coolie Sangha to protect them is touching, as shown in this typical example.

² Due to the cash flow crisis facing ADATS, decentralised health budgets have not been given out this year.

- In Junjanahalli, CSU Member Savithamma had deserted her husband 4 years back as she could take his beatings any more. 4 months back, Ryots from his village promised to make him mend his ways and asked Savithamma to return. Savithamma refused. She finally went to the husband's village only after he joined the CSU in that village.

A lot of problems are self-created and murky.

- In Attoor, CSU Member Gangarathamma's daughter, studying in IX Std. had an affair with a classmate and could not concentrate on her studies. Knowing about the affair, Gangarathamma took back her daughter from the school. The Mahila Meeting strongly disagreed and succeeded in convincing Gangarathamma to send her daughter to a different school.
- Rajamma of Shettikere was the 2nd wife of CSU Member Narasappa. He married for the 2nd time when he did not get a child from his 1st wife, and both wives live in same house. But they do not get along and quarrel all the time. Everybody in the village blame Rajamma and finally convinced her to live separately. The Mahila Meeting succeeded in making Narasappa make arrangements to give her a separate house and half an acre of land even though she was not legally eligible.
- In Ramapatna CSU, Thimmakka had an affair with a boy who was 2 year younger to her. Her parents did not give their consent forcibly got her married to a different boy. Thimmakka continued her relationship with the younger boy even after her marriage. This caused rift between husband and wife. Thimmakka returned back to her parents house and her parents publicly repented in the CSU Meeting. The CSU and Mahila Meeting called Thimmakka to the joint meeting and suggested that she either divorcing her husband and marry her boyfriend, or stop her extra marital relationship. Thimmakka opted to continue with her legal husband. The members successfully assured Thimmakka's husband and warned the younger boy of serious consequences if he was found anywhere near Thimmakka.
- Munivenkatamma was thrown out by her husband who suspected her virginity only 4 months after her marriage. It soon came to light that it was all an uncle's work (he had a quarrel with his brother over some land issue) when Munivenkatamma's cousin got married to her ex-husband! The Gadidasanahalli Mahila Meeting decided not to pursue the sordid issue. Instead they announced the problem in the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meeting and found another boy to marry Munivenkatamma.
- In Bommapalli, CSU Member Ramanjinappa was earning good money by supplying illicit liquor. Frequent advice by the CSU did not change matters. The CSU did not cancel his membership since that would not eradicate the cause of the problem. Complaints to the Excise Department against the trader who supplied Ramanjinappa did not yield any result as the officials had their own illegal affairs that Ramanjinappa touted for. All the Coolie women from the Mahila Meetings of the Cluster together attacked the trader's house and smashed cans used for storing liquor. During the reporting period the supply of illicit liquor has been completely stopped. Very inexplicably, the CSU has given Ramanjinappa a CCF loan to rear a crossbred cow.

But not everywhere are the Mahila Meetings brave and heroic. There still is a lackadaisical attitude in some villages.

- In Mallikapura CSU, Narasamma's husband Kadirappa was an alcoholic and used to torture his wife and children. Several requests and warnings by the Mahila Meeting over the past 5 years were in vain. Moreover, the Mahila Meeting seemed to be taking the issue very lightly, suggesting that Narasamma waits for some more time. Disgusted Narasamma, decided to end her life and jumped into a local well about 3 months back.

Somebody from the village rescued her from death.

The Mahila Meeting got really scared. They threatened all the male CSU Members that they would use their CCF veto power to block all CCF decisions until they got Kadirappa to mend his ways.

There is a slight improvement in Narasamma's predicament.

2.3. Registering Family Properties in the names of Women

As earlier mentioned, selected WF beneficiaries, VHWs and all the Women's Committee Members sat with the WF Field Workers and volunteer Case Workers to review the Women's Funds at Chickballapur, Chintamani and Siddalaghatta.

Details will be given in the 4th Progress Report on the Women's Fund, to be written in December 2000, but a pertinent point needs to be mentioned here in this 11th Consortium Progress Report.

Women at all 3 Taluks felt that they had made impressive achievements with regard to single women – young widows and deserted mothers. But on the whole, they had not impacted Coolie women as a whole. In spite of making a lot of noise, family properties were not being transferred in the names of wives, sisters and daughters.

The 3 Gender Committees also discussed the matter, but were unable to come up with a concrete follow-up.

ADATS directly took up this issue with male Coolie Sangha functionaries – elected CSU Representatives, Cluster Secretaries and Taluk Secretaries. Information was shared on pertinent laws and legal procedures. A call was given to register all properties in the joint names of husband and wife before March 2001.

There is every indication that we will reach out to at least 50% of the total Membership. An additional 5-10% are willing to transfer entire family properties to the names of wives, going beyond the joint ownership call.

3. COOLIE CREDIT FUNDS

3.1. Status of the CCFs

The past 6 months have seen a terrific improvement in the CCFs. It is as if all the concerted efforts made in the past 1 ½ years – Stocktaking Reports, Member Training, Action Plan, Subject Matter Cells, block on male recruitments, selecting women cheque signatories for all bank accounts and handing over total financial responsibilities to the Mahila Meetings, Economic Literacy Campaign, etc. – have finally paid off. There has been a strict and serious effort on the part of the Coolies to bring their house to order.

- Overdue has dropped to 18% (down from 45% on 31 March 2000).
- CCF bank balances have dropped further to an ideal figure of 20% (down from 30% on 31 March 2000) with the fresh disbursement of loans and also because of heavy organisational borrowing by ADATS.

This is in keeping with recommendations made in the Stocktaking exercise.

Status of the CCFs in the 4 Extensions (as on 30 September 2000)

Total CCF Capital		36,920,232	100%
Total of Good Loans		22,757,250	62%
Total of Overdue		6,463,097	18%
1 to 6 Months Late	1,327,575		3%
7 to 12 Months Late	8,838,374		23%
Over 1 Year Late	5,690,373		15%
Bank Balances		7,751,464	20%

3.2. CCF Utilisation

There was huge CCF activity during the past 9 months. A Total of Rs 5,050,950 was given out to 1,254 borrowers. This indicates an improvement in lender as well as borrower confidence. The activity was finally in their grip and they genuinely felt that they had internalized a fiscal discipline.

Crop loans, as always during the half year of this reporting period, accounted for the maximum lending. 979 Member Coolies borrowed Rs 1,961,200 to raise crops on their fields. 144 borrowers took Rs 590,950 for rearing cattle – sheep and crossbred cows. The figures for trade include borrowings by the 2nd Consortium Programme and are therefore not quite indicative of lending activity – the 115 loans totaling to Rs 2,434,000 were not all taken by Member Coolie families.

CCF Utilisation Pattern in the 4 Extensions (as on 30 September 2000)

Purpose	Amount Borrowed		No of Loans	
Crop Loans	14,320,825	22%	9,743	41%
Agriculture	2,873,373	4%	1,005	4%
Cattle	19,438,953	30%	6,707	28%
Trade & Entrepreneurship ³	28,169,566	43%	5,740	24%
Consumption & others	284,490		380	2%
Total	65,087,207	100%	23,575	100%

3.3. CCF Performance

With serious measures leading to a better lender/borrower confidence. CCF performance has dramatically improved. Now we can only hope that this fiscal discipline stays.

- Rotation of capital has climbed to 176% (up from 163.3% on 31 March 2000).
- Repayment Rates have climbed to 90.07% (up from 72.16% on 31 March 2000).
- Capital at Risk has dropped dramatically to 17.5% (down from an alarming 45.54% on 31 March 2000).

³ Includes Rs 8.8 million borrowed by the 2nd Consortium Programme.

CCF Performance in the 4 Extensions (as on 30 September 2000)

CCF Capital		Rs 36,920,232
Cumulative loans given		Rs 65,087,207
Rotation of Capital		176%
Number of Loans		23,575
Average Borrowing		Rs 2,760
Repayment Rate	100 - (Overdue + Bad Debts / Cumulative Loans x 100)	90.07 %
Capital at Risk	Overdue / Capital	17.5 %

Dirk van Esbroeck (Consultant from South Research, Belgium, commissioned by the European Commission to evaluate, among others, ADATS) has given us a new set of parameters to monitor CCF Performance. We will include these from the next 6 monthly Report.

4. SANGHA FUNDS**4.1. Sangha Funds in the 4 Extensions**

Sangha Funds in the 4 Extension Taluks had dropped from Rs 14.42 million to Rs 13.31 million from 31 March 1999 to 31 March 2000. This was because moneys in the Taluk Fixed Deposits were invested in the construction of a common asset which would give rental income to the Coolie Sangha.

In the past 1 year, Sangha Funds once again grew to Rs 17.95 million, surpassing the 31 March 1999 figure.

Sangha Funds for the 4 Extensions (as on 30 September 2000)

	31 March 2000	30 September 2000	
Village Fixed Deposits	<i>n.a.</i>	15,373,014	
Village SB Accounts	<i>n.a.</i>	1,292,077	
Taluk Main Fixed Deposits	<i>n.a.</i>	Nil	
Taluk Main SB Accounts	<i>n.a.</i>	1,285,750	17,950,841
		Rs	
		13,314,850	

4.2. Sangha Funds for the entire region

Overall Sangha Funds in the 4 Extension Taluks grew from Rs 23.31 million on 31 March 2000 to Rs 27 million on 30 September 2000 in spite of Taluk Account Fixed Deposits being broken.

This was because of huge collections at Bagepalli Taluk due to a revival of the CCFs and also because all the Member Coolie families ploughed back 20% of their DLDP wages into Sangha Funds.

Sangha Funds for all 4 Taluks (as on 30 September 2000)

	31 March 2000	30 September 2000
Village Fixed Deposits	n.a.	23,654,730
Village SB Accounts	n.a.	1,841,616
Taluk Main Fixed Deposits	n.a.	217,614
Taluk Main SB Accounts	n.a. 23,324,687	1,285,750 26,999,710

4.3. Sangha Tax

The vibrant system of declaring annual incomes and paying a fixed percentage as Sangha Tax is now 6 years old. A systematic monitoring of performance figures provides a wealth of information, like the rings on a fallen tree trunk, on the region's political economy – physical conditions of yields and incomes, as well as the Coolies' level of confidence/despondence.

On the Income Declared side, we see some revealing trends:

- Average Income Declared for 1997, 1998 and 1999 steadily dropped to reach rock bottom of Rs 2,715.
Even if these are not totally reliable figures due to global trends to under-declare incomes when it comes to paying taxes, they still have a validity when examined over a 6 year timeline.
- However, the number of Member Coolie families brought under the Sangha Tax bracket kept increasing during those same years, with a sudden spurt in 1998-1999 when the practice was introduced in CSUs of the erstwhile Novib Areas.

On the Tax Paid side, we see the debilitating effects of drought and famine:

- In 1998, as a consequence of the 1st year of drought in 1997, there was a huge fall in the Average Sangha Tax Paid by each Member Coolie family to Rs 177.
- In 1999 the Average Sangha Tax Paid figure rises to Rs 225 per Member Coolie family due to their fear of drought.
It is as though they realise that only the material/financial wherewithal of a strong Coolie Sangha can save them during difficult times...
- This is further corroborated by the decision of the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings to raise the tax rate to 10% (of 1998 declared income) in 1999. Though actual collections worked out to only 7.31%, this was the highest ever over the past 6 years.
- In 2000, we see their backs broken by famine, and Average Sangha Tax Paid figures slump to the lowest ever at Rs 154 per Member Coolie family.
- There is a slump in collective self-confidence also, with the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings fixing the tax rate at 6% - but actual collections also work out to a close 5.67%.

Analysis of Sangha Tax paid in all 4 Taluks (as on 30 September 2000)

INCOME DECLARED	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Number of Families who Declared their Income	2,877	4,603	5,351	5,905	10,881	11,558	
<i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i>	100%	160%	116%	110%	184%	106%	
Total Income Declared	12,370,011	18,471,088	23,336,726	20,905,017	33,451,923	31,375,835	
<i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i>	100%	149%	126%	90%	160%	94%	
Average Income Declared	Rs 4,300	Rs 4,013	Rs 4,361	Rs 3,540	Rs 3,074	Rs 2,715	
<i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i>	100%	93%	109%	81%	87%	88%	
TAX PAID		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000

Number of Families who paid						
Sangha Tax	2,308	4,344	4,755	4,745	8,812	9,900
<i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>188%</i>	<i>109%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>186%</i>	<i>112%</i>
<i>Declared/Paid (Compliance Rate)</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>94%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>86%</i>
Total Sangha Tax paid	510,680	1,008,467	1,159,404	840,473	1,980,283	1,523,613
<i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>197%</i>	<i>115%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>236%</i>	<i>77%</i>
Average Sangha Tax paid	Rs 221	Rs 232	Rs 244	Rs 177	Rs 225	Rs 154
<i>Increase/Decrease over previous year</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>105%</i>	<i>105%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>127%</i>	<i>68%</i>
Actual Tax Paid / Income	5.15%	5.79%	5.59%	5.00%	7.31%	5.67%
<i>Supposed to Pay (as per BCS Decision)</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>6%</i>

Overall, Sangha Tax has mobilized massive revenue during difficult times. A whopping Rs 4.34 million was collected to spend on transaction costs of the CSUs and also to support activities like community and referral health since we were not able to grant out decentralized health budgets due to our cash crunch.

5. DRY LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DLDP)

5.1. Drought & Famine

The year 2000 was the 3rd consecutive year of erratic rains and drought. 1997 and 1998 saw less than 50% crop yields. In 1999 this dropped to 5-10%. By the end of 1999 it was clear that there would be yet another crop failure. Prospects of famine loomed large and everyone dreaded the summer of 2000.

Massive disinvestments were taking place with Member Coolie families selling off livestock and even farming instruments. Thousands had migrated in search of work, leaving behind nursing mothers with infants, young children and the aged. The plight of these dependents who anxiously waited for remittances from able family members was pathetic. CCF Overdue mounted with borrowers simply unable to meet repayment commitments. Village CSUs began to empty their coffers with pensions and aid distress.

In the preceding section, we explained how there was a huge fall in family income and Sangha Tax paid in 1998. In spite of a further fall in income, the Coolies made a heroic effort to mobilize more Sangha Tax in 1999. They needed a strong Coolie Sangha to support them in the face of the forthcoming calamity. But by the year 2000, their backs were broken. Self-confidence plummeted.

5.2. Budget Readjustments

ADATS and her funding partners realized that we could not be mute spectators. In spite of funding uncertainties and a cash flow problem we decided to rearrange the sanctioned budget of the 2nd Consortium Programme. We made cuts and savings in other budget heads and implement massive DLDP works. Allocations for Vehicle Maintenance and Office Running Costs were reduced by 15%. Decentralised health budget grants were cut by 10%.

In November 1999 we tentatively agreed to spend Rs 6.86 million more on the DLDP in spite of only Rs 3.4 million being available.

In April 2000 Icco made an extremely generous additional grant of Rs 16.4 million to alleviate the cash flow crisis caused by the European Union's indecision to participate in the 2nd Consortium Programme (they were to have given 50% of the total Rs 62 million budget).

5.3. Objectives of the DLDP 2000

Moved by the plight of the Coolies, we were ready to consider these works as a palliative of sorts. We were prepared to not look too closely at the land development objectives. Instead we would consider the works as a drought relief measure.

The Coolie Sangha decided otherwise. Every single village CSU made a firm resolve to reciprocate our concern and make this year's works the most impressive of them all. They were determined to bring their lands on par with that of *Ryots*.

5.4. DLDP Plans & Utilisation

- 17,924 acres of dry land belonging to 5,252 Member Coolie families from 184 villages which were worst effected by the drought were selected to implement the DLDP from March to June 2000.
- Agriculturists and DLDP Field Workers helped each village CSU to make their DLDP Plans. 75-100 days of labour were allocated among various landholdings according to holding size and actual labour needed.
- These village-wise DLDP Plans totalled to Rs 5,957,215.

- A total of 4,012 Member Coolie families worked on 15,251 acres of land and utilised Rs 5,875,410.

Utilisation figures work out to 76%, 85% and 99% in terms of families, land and amounts respectively.

Where was the DLDP 2000 Implemented?

Taluk & Area	Village CSUs	Member Families			Land Holding			DLDP Budget		
		Total	Worked	%	Total	Worked	%	Allotted	Spent	%
<u>Bagepalli</u>										
Old Area	38	1,170	822	70%	4,203	3,300	79%	1,325,680	1,476,785	111%
Mittemari	44	1,122	860	77%	4,011	3,377	84%	1,280,340	1,368,727	107%
Gulur Area	21	489	469	96%	1,847	1,794	97%	564,330	756,403	134%
<u>Chintamani</u>										
Icco Area	17	493	325	66%	1,500	1,251	83%	531,615	439,026	83%
Novib Area	23	697	505	73%	1,970	1,580	80%	791,385	637,296	81%
EZE Area	14	459	305	67%	1,157	909	79%	530,385	339,893	64%
<u>Siddalaghatta</u>										
Icco Area	5	126	113	90%	339	338	100%	144,510	137,165	95%
Novib Area	22	696	613	88%	2,897	2,702	93%	788,970	720,115	91%
Total	184	5,252	4,012	76%	17,924	15,251	85%	5,957,215	5,875,410	99%

5.5. Actual Works Done

- 3,956 sets of instruments (a crowbar and an iron pan each) were distributed to as many Member Coolie families.
Working together in gangs of 20-25, they descended on each other's lands according to village-wise DLDP Plans.
- They constructed 176,192 metres of rock contour bunds, repaired 2,345 metres of existing bunds (built in the previous years), and checked 644 metres of ravines and gully with small check dams.
- Pebbles and boulders were cleared from 3,292 acres of land.
- 173 acres of new land was brought under cultivation for the very first time.

DLDP Works Done in 2000

Area	Implements Distributed (sets)	New Bunds (metres)	Repair Bunds (metres)	Ravine & Gully Check (metres)	Pebble Clearance (acres)	New Land Cleared (acres)
Bagepalli						
Old Area	815	36,709	882	85	720	40
Mittemari	841	36,587		111	834	35
Gulur	466	20,770	242	80	331	25
Chintamani						
Icco Area	345	12,094	517		176	21
Novib Area	429	22,684	704		209	21
EZE Area	456	17,666			161	1

Siddalaghatta						
Icco Area	90	3,651		46	289	4
Novib Area	543	26,031		322	572	27
Total	3,956	176,192	2,345	644	3,292	173

- A new activity taken up in Bagepalli Taluk was deep ploughing. With the advent of rains in June-July, each CSU hired local tractors in order to plough their lands.
- 8,499 acres of land (they actually worked on 8,471 acres) belonging to Member Coolie families were thoroughly tilled to turn over 7" of topsoil and offset the adverse effects of the past 3 year's drought.
- The cost of tractor hire worked out to Rs 1.18 million, taking the total expenditure on the DLDP to Rs 7.06 million.

Deep Ploughing undertaken with Hired Tractors

Taluk & Area	Villages	Acres	Hours	Amount
Bagepalli				
Old Area	37	4,168	3,678	589,780
Mitemari	21	1,736	1,539	230,796
Gulur	32	2,595	2,394	359,026
	90	8,499	7,611	1,179,602

5.6. Typical DLDP Stories

- In Jinkpalli, Pilla Venkatappa had 4 acres of boulder filled land. Actual land available for cultivation was 2 ½ -3 acres and yield was 10-12 bags. Over the years, his family used the DLDP to clear the entire 4 acres and bring 4 more acres of adjacent waste land under their holding. They now get 40 bags of groundnut to sell in the market, pulses like Redgram, Cowpea, Field beans for consumption, and Maize for fodder.
- A.D. Narasimhappa, also from Jinkapalli, had 5 acres of land which was not fully cultivable. Through the DLDP he made it into a 10 acre plot. Yields have increased from 20 bags of groundnut to 60 bags. He also grows pulses for consumption. He is now able to send his son Narasimha to college.
- Nanjundappa from Narayanaswamykote was a landless washerman. CSU Members cleared 1.5 acres of new land for him. He is also able to take a crop loans from the CCF. With the additional income, he can continue sending his daughter and son to school. They are studying VI and IV Std. Respectively.
- Narayanappa from Shivapura had ½ acres of land which was full of boulders and totally eroded. All he could grow on it was Horse Gram. Through the DLDP, he levelled the plot and encroached upon 2 ½ acres of government owned land. With crop loans from the CCF, he started growing groundnut. Since then, his family income increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 7-8,000 per year. They also own a pair of bullocks.
- R. Narayana from Chinaganapalli had 4 acres of land. More than 60% of it was full of boulders and shrubs. Through the DLDP his family cleared the plot and encroached into 2 more acres of government owned land next to his own. Through the Dry Land Horti-

culture Programme, they planted 30 mango saplings and expect the first crop in another 2 years. 6 months back, they drilled a bore well and struck enough water to irrigate their entire 6 acres. They now do not have to go for outside coolie.

- N. Narayana's father had 2 acres of eroded land which he could not afford to cultivate. When the DLDP was started in their village, cultivation slowly improved. They first sowed minor millets and then switched over to groundnut and other pulses. They slowly encroached upon 4.5 acres of government owned land and now have 6 ½ acres, most of which is levelled.
The family also own a crossbred cow and sell the milk to the Milk Collection Society in the village.
- Venkataravanamma of Besthlapalli had 1 acre of land near a brush forest, steep and eroded. The entire CSU helped her encroach upon 4 more acres of government land and used her allotment under the DLDP to make it available for cultivation. Her yields increased dramatically from 4 to 20 bags of groundnut.
Her son studied upto X Std. but he did not show too much interest in studies. She put him for work in a paper mill at Bangalore.
- In Doddivaripalli, 3 brothers were separated 10 years ago. They each got 1 acre of land. Apart from clearing these tiny plots, they each encroached on another 2 acres of government land. The 3 brothers then got together to dig a well. They got enough water and have now applied for a CCF loan for a pump.

5.7. Effects Monitoring

These anecdotal narratives are not enough. ADATS realises that a major activity like the DLDP needs systematic monitoring and measurement in order to communicate results and learn lessons from experiences. This was the reason why we welcomed Icco's initiative to implement an effect monitoring system with assistance from Ben Haagsma of I/C Consult.

Effect or Outcome or Result is not derived from any single programme activity. A crude definition of it is "How did the benefiting Coolies use the Outputs of various activities?". It is therefore necessary to introduce a systematic monitoring in all and every activity of both, ADATS and the Coolie Sangha. This is what we are committed to doing in the coming months.

5.8. Master Plan

Towards the end of this reporting period, we decided to make a detailed survey of all the land holdings of each and every Member Coolie family. For the next 3 months, from October to December 2000, ADATS Staff will visit each land holding, along with all the CSU Members of the village, in order to record:

- Soil Condition
- Number of Years of DLDP work done (S&WC works, silt hauling, deep ploughing, etc.)
- Slope of the Land
- Quality of Contour Bunds

Our computerized databank will be upgraded to record this information and generate useful reports. Based on this exhaustive survey, each village CSU will plan on exactly what additional inputs they need, over the next 5-10 years, in order to reach the Programme Goal of Achieving Food Security for Member Coolie families.

- We will allocate Rs 5 million per year for the next 3 years in the 3rd Consortium budget (April 2001 to March 2004) towards this extended DLDP.

- The New Zealand Government has, through SCNZ, already sanctioned Rs 3 million a year for the next 5 years (January 2001 to December 2005) toward this Master Plan. (This grant is up-scalable to Rs 5 million per year, subject to a review by VASS officials.)
- Counterpart International, Washington DC, will inform us about their participation by early 2001.
(ADATS and Counterpart have decided to place AIJ efforts⁴ on the back-burner and instead approach USAID for programme funding.)

In the context of making this Master Plan and revising our Agriculture Strategy, the offer of I/C Consult to help study Farming Systems in the region came at a very propitious time. Together with Ben Haagsma and Peter Goedhart, we are now in the process of drawing up a ToR for Agriculture Man Ecology (AME), Bangalore, to conduct this FS study in a participative manner with ADATS Staff and Coolie Sangha functionaries.

⁴ Attempts to mobilise commercial funding through a Carbon sequestration proposal are at an advanced stage with US and Indian government recognition/approval, but stuck due to policy debates that are beyond our control.