

0322. 14th Progress Report on the Consortium Programme (Apr 2003)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The 8 Objectives to which the 3 year ADATS/Coolie Sangha strategic plan is committed to are:

- A. Coolies Take Control Over their own Lives
- B. Political Presence of Coolie Sangha established
- C. Coolie Women Strengthened
- D. Coolie Children have Secure Future of their Choice
- E. Survival Capacity of Member Coolie families Established
- F. Sustainable Resource Use Practices Set In Place
- G. Diversified Economic Development Initiated
- H. Staff Capacity Developed

As with the previous 2 Progress Reports, we will once again review each of these Objectives against accepted indicators to assess the extent of achievement or progress.

A. COOLIES TAKE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES

A.1. Membership & Coverage

A.1.1. MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

- There are 15,804 Member families in 537 functioning village CSUs (*up 1,230 families and 6 villages from March 2002*).
- Only 13,471 (85%) families have paid up their Sangha Tax at the time of writing this Report (*up 3,407 families from March 2002*). These Coolie families are entitled to full programme benefits during this calendar year.
- The number of Independent CSUs where we have completed our 9 year intervention for Coolie Sangha building has risen dramatically during the past year.
- Coverage shows a big increase because it is now calculated within functioning villages and not the taluks as a whole, as was our practice hitherto. (*Coverage in the entire region remains at 23%*)

Membership & Coverage as on 31 March 2003

	3 rd Consortium Application	Last Report	This Report
1st 3 year Formation phase	61	32	19
2nd 3 year Formalisation phase	117	67	83
3rd 3 year Consolidation phase	236	259	125
Independent CSUs	174	173	310
Total Villages	588	531	537
Normal Member Families	15,081	14,574	15,804
Women Memberships		4,409 (30%)	5,085 (32%)
Coverage of Village Population		24%	34%

A.1.2. COVERAGE IN DIFFERENT PHASES OF COOLIE SANGHA BUILDING

- In the 1st 3 year phase of Coolie Sangha building, all the small and poor peasant families tend to join up with a vague and unclear understanding of the intervention strategy. Coverage starts at 39% since approximately one-half the village population belong to the Coolie caste-class, and three-quarter of them join up.
- In the 2nd 3 year phase coverage drops to 29% with many families realising that the Coolie Sangha is not an arrangement merely in order to grab benefits. They find a steep price to pay in terms of self-discipline, internal rectification and self-finance.
- In the 3rd 3 year phase and thereafter, coverage stabilise at 35%.

Coverage in different Phases of Coolie Sangha building

Phase of Coolie Sangha Building	Village CSUs	Member Families	Population Coverage
1 st 3 year Formation phase	19	635	39%
2 nd 3 year Formalisation phase	83	2,467	29%
3 rd 3 year Consolidation phase	125	3,683	35%
Independent village CSUs	310	9,019	35%
Total	537	15,804	34%

A.1.3. ETHNIC COVER

- The Coolie Sangha is most popular with SC/ST families who comprise 47% of the village population. 44% of them opt to joint their village CSUs, and within the Coolie Sangha SC/ST families comprise 60% of the membership composition.
- One-quarter the middle and forward caste population join their village CSUs and comprise 18% and 22% of the membership, respectively.

Ethnic Composition of the Membership as on 31 March 2003

Member Families	Percent in CSUs	Caste Group	Total Families in functioning Villages		Ethnic Cover
9,510	60%	Scheduled Castes/Tribes	21,794	47%	44%
2,787	18%	Middle Castes	10,303	22%	27%
3,507	22%	Forward Castes	14,076	31%	25%
15,804	100%		46,174	100%	34%

A.2. Community Organisation through Baseline making exercises

A.2.1. RE-DEFINING DAY-TO-DAY LIFE ACTIVITIES AS DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Member Coolies realised that Baseline making (or *Agenda* to use their own term) ought to be a conversion of day-to-day Life Activities into Development Processes. A rational use of their functional unity should result in ordinary, every day issues getting addressed in a more sensible manner than through atomised efforts of resource-poor individuals.

ADATS Staff were trained to give conceptual guidance, and spent many weeks in village meetings, helping them re-define everyday activities as development processes.

LIFE ACTIVITY	DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (defined as <i>Beginning state to End state</i>)
Cultivation	Poor Crops & Barren Lands <i>to</i> Good Crops & Food Security
Child Rearing	Neglected Childhood & Perfunctory Schooling <i>to</i> Cared for Childhood
Civic Benefits	Civic Benefits through influence, middlemen and bribes <i>to</i> Rights Based Civic Benefits
Justice	Blatant discrimination <i>to</i> Citizen Rights
Women In Families	Lack of Identity, Dignity & Status <i>to</i> Decision Making Authority within the Family ¹
Old Age	Neglected & Discarded <i>to</i> Respect & Care
Business Opportunities	Precarious single income sources (like daily labour) <i>to</i> Diversified Incomes from many activities

A.2.2. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Member Coolie families recognised that since each box in their Agenda represented a Life Activity, it would immediately be apparent as to how much and how many of these they were willing to define as Development Processes, and entrust to the collective efforts of the Coolie Sangha. Village CSUs with more boxes filled in had more faith in the Coolie Sangha than those with fewer boxes.

It was all very well to continually reiterate that the Coolie Sangha was their lives and *vice-versa*, but here was a concrete way by which the veracity of the slogan could be tested. Moreover, the strength of individual village CSUs, derived through functional unity, could be gauged when implementing their respective Agendas – those who got more tick marks in the boxes were stronger than those with a lesser rate of success. Willy-nilly, a rough and tumble indicator to gauge the maturity of individual village CSUs began to emerge.

Using this broad principle and applying algorithms to a host of complex factors, our computer rates performance as under:

Baseline Performance as on 31 March 2003

Excellent	73 village CSUs	15%
Very Good	122 village CSUs	25%
Good	131 village CSUs	26%
Not Good	171 village CSUs	34%

A.2.3. THE MONSOON AGENDA '02

The 3rd Baseline making/implementation exercise, undertaken from July 2002, was a mature, grass-rooted and serious affair. It's objective was as much problem solving as to turn ADATS and the Coolie Sangha around, firmly placing both organisations on a path of relevance and sustainability.

While not all CSUs and Mahila Meetings have reached a standard and uniform high, we can state that it is they themselves who re-defined 9 life activities as development processes and identified concrete action points:

¹ The Mahila Meetings clearly recognise that while their Men have a high standing within the Family, less so in the village community, and hardly any at all in wider society, the position of Women is quite the reverse. Coolie women enjoy some pretence of respect in wider society, less so in their villages, and none at all in their respective homes.

LIFE ACTIVITY	ACTION POINTS
Cultivation	Implementing DLDP; crop loans, crop insurance, planting trees, organic farming, joint marketing
Child Rearing	Schooling, health care, after school, skills and jobs
Civic Benefits	Houses, electricity, road, drains, pensions, own efforts
Justice	Taking cases out of Courts and Police Stations
Women In Families	Property rights, marriages, divorce, domestic violence, reproductive health
Old Age	Pensions, property rights, health care
Business Opportunities	Re-starting businesses, cattle rearing, skills, credit
Power & Position	Civic elections
Safety Net	Feeding the hungry, ambulance services, insurance

A.2.4. RESULTS OBTAINED IN THE MONSOON AGENDA '02

- A total of 14,217 action points (100%) were identified by Member Coolie families, under 9 categories (life processes).
- 7,573 problems (53%) were satisfactorily solved.
 - Success Rates were highest in issues relating to Health (77%), Child Care (68%), and obtaining Civic Benefits (59%).
 - They were lowest in providing a Safety Net for Member families in distress (15%), and in solving problems of Women within their Families (33%).
- 4,754 (33%) were Under Action when the Monsoon Agenda '02 was officially closed on 25 November 2002.
- 202 problems (1%) were rejected as non-serious or insolvable by the village CSUs and 274 (2%) were rejected by various government authorities.
- The village CSUs failed to solve 1,162 problems (8%).

Overall Results of the Monsoon Agenda '02

Life Process	Action Items	Progress	Success
Agriculture	5,130	92 No Action 1,207 Under Action 94 Rejected by the CSUs 184 Rejected by government authorities 915 Failed	2,638 51%
Child Care	2,046	20 No Action 492 Under Action 18 Rejected by the CSUs 32 Rejected by government authorities 91 Failed	1,393 68%
Business Opportunities	1,222	31 No Action 521 Under Action 13 Rejected by the CSUs 1 Rejected by government authorities 61 Failed	595 49%
Justice	501	8 No Action 204 Under Action 33 Rejected by the CSUs 1 Failed	255 51%
Old Age	739	14 No Action 298 Under Action 17 Rejected by the CSUs 32 Rejected by government authorities 21 Failed	357 48%

Health	640	13 102 3 32	No Action Under Action Rejected by the CSUs Failed	490 77%
Women in Family	1,501	13 965 6 5 19	No Action Under Action Rejected by the CSUs Rejected by government authorities Failed	493 33%
Civic Benefits	2,226	60 793 12 20 20	No Action Under Action Rejected by the CSUs Rejected by government authorities Failed	1,321 59%
Safety Net	212	1 172 6 2	No Action Under Action Rejected by the CSUs Failed	31 15%
TOTAL	14,217	252 4,754 202 274 1,162	No Action (2%) Under Action (33%) Rejected by the CSUs (1%) Rejected by government (2%) Failed (8%)	7,573 53%

A.2.5. MONITORING THE MONSOON AGENDA '02

Monitoring is often confused with a measurement of progress. While no management can be carried out without the latter (indeed, much of management itself can be seen as a measurement science), this is not monitoring.

In order to get a correct understanding of Monitoring, Processes have to first be understood. Processes, in this context, are like Black Boxes whose contents are shrouded in a degree of privacy. They are sets of activities carried out by each Actor (Process Owner) in her own individual style, using her own strengths, weaknesses and particular abilities. Staff Empowerment then assumes a new meaning – to give each Staff member skills, responsibilities and independence needed to convert Inputs into agreed upon Outputs.

Monitoring, in this context, becomes the mutual sharing of process details – i.e. how each Actor goes about achieving particular outputs. Monitoring is a joint reflection on various individual approaches. The end product of monitoring then becomes community learning and the creation of an organisational knowledge base.

A.2.6. RESULTS OBTAINED IN THE SUMMER AGENDAS '03

In February 2003 the 4th baseline making exercise was initiated and Coolie Sangha functionaries have started taking action since this month.

A total of 7,523 action points (100%) have been identified by Member Coolie families, once again under 9 categories. 1,859 problems (25%) have already been solved, and 4,367 (58%) are Under Action at the time of writing this Progress Report, 1½ months into its implementation.

A.2.7. MONITORING THE SUMMER AGENDA '03

A comparison of the number of problems identified in last year's Monsoon Agenda '02 and the currently being implemented Summer Agenda '03 shows a fall of nearly 50% in the number of problems identified for action.

Village CSUs claim that they have accepted only those problems that they believe can be solved within 3-4 months.

- In categories like Justice and Old Age, many problems have previously been solved through earlier baseline making/implementing exercises, and so there is a drop in the number of issues now identified.
- Similar drops are witnessed in Agriculture, Child Care and Business Opportunities because this may not be the time and season for taking up those issues.
- The steep drop in issues pertaining to Women in Families has to be viewed alongside a sharp increase in Women's Health issues in order to get a satisfactory answer.

Compare Current & Previous Baselines

Life Process	Action Items in Monsoon Agenda '02	Action Items in Summer Agenda '03	Comments
Agriculture	5,130	821	Sharp drop because these are not the cropping months
Child Care	2,046	817	Sharp drop because this is not school joining time
Business Opportunities	1,222	393	Sharp drop because there are only limited trading opportunities during the drought
Justice	501	425	Slight drop since many contentious issues have already been solved
Old Age	739	581	Slight drop because many problems have already been solved
Health	640	888	Sharp increase because there is a greater consciousness on women's reproductive health
Women in Family	1,501	556	Sharp drop that cannot be explained
Civic Benefits	2,226	2,797	Slight Increase
Safety Net	212	245	Slight increase
TOTAL	14,217	7,523	

A.3. Sangha Funds

A.3.1. CUMULATIVE SANGHA FUND COLLECTIONS

The 16 year old self-finance call given to Member Coolie families to contribute 10% of their earnings, from whatever source, for the running of their village CSUs is one of the big successes of the Coolie Sangha.

Audited accounts show that a total of Rs 92.2 million has been collected by the village CSUs from February 1987 to date. An additional Rs 15.2 million was earned as bank interest.

- Rs 3.69 million (3%) through *Hundis* or dumb boxes placed in the villages
- Rs 14.07 million (13%) through the Sangha Tax mechanism
- Rs 74.43 million (69%) through general voluntary contributions
(includes Rs 13.22 million contributed by CCF borrowers as 10% loan price)
- Rs 15.23 million (14%) as bank interest earned by the village CSU accounts

Cumulative Sangha Fund Collections (2 February 1987 to 31 March 2003)

<i>Hundi</i> Collections	3,697,696.60	3%		
Sangha Tax	14,076,268.40	13%		
Voluntary Contributions - General	74,439,346.05	69%		
Bank Interest earned	15,234,523.60	14%	107,447,834.65	100%

A.3.2. SANGHA FUND BALANCES

Sangha Fund balances grew to Rs 38.7 million on 31 March 2003 (*up from Rs 32.39 million on 31 March 2002*).

- Rs 31,629,217 (82%) is the decentralised village level corpus that the Coolie Sangha has built up, *vide* Fixed Deposits in nationalised banks, for the posterity of the people's organisation.
- The remaining Rs 7,078,426 (18%) is what the Coolie Sangha has collected very recently, kept aside for current year expenses on children's schooling, health, etc.

Overall Sangha Funds (as on 31 March 2003)

	31 March 2002	31 March 2003	
Village Fixed Deposits	23,840,831		31,179,217
Village SB Accounts	7,811,691		5,389,848
Taluk Main Fixed Deposits	448,614		450,000
Taluk Main SB Accounts	290,953	32,392,089	1,688,578
			38,707,643

A.4. Sangha Tax

A.4.1. OVERALL POSITION

With an all time high collection of Rs 2.91 million in January 2003, Sangha Tax mobilisation reached a cumulative total of Rs 13,881,207 for the past 9 years.²

Sangha Tax Performance as on 31 March 2003

Excellent	113 village CSUs	14%	5,054 families	21%
Very Good	159 village CSUs	20%	5,877 families	25%
Good	146 village CSUs	19%	4,935 families	21%
Not Good	368 village CSUs	47%	8,050 families	34%

- The number of families who declared their incomes increased by 8% over last year.
- But the total income declared took a dip. The average family income declared for the year 2002 was 69% less than the previous year's figure.
- The number of families who actually paid up Sangha Tax and renewed their full membership in the Coolie Sangha increased by an impressive 34%.
- Likewise, the volume of Sangha Tax collected was a record high at Rs 2.91 million, a 40% increase over the previous year.
- However, the average tax paid grew only by 4%.

² There is an unreconciled difference of Rs 195,061.40 between the audited accounts and database figures

Sangha Tax paid in all 5 Taluks (as on 31 March 2003)

INCOME DECLARED	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of Families who Declared their Income	2,75	4,550	5,245	5,718	10,553	11,343	14,616	14,494	15,804
<i>Increase/Decrease over last year</i>	100%	160%	116%	110%	184%	108%	125%	100%	108%
Total Income Declared	11,977,378	18,303,288	22,952,790	20,395,067	32,532,771	30,797,885	44,984,925	92,945,958	68,777,529
<i>Increase/Decrease over last year</i>	100%	149%	126%	90%	160%	95%	142%	209%	74%
Average Income Declared	Rs 4,316	Rs 4,023	Rs 4,376	Rs 3,567	Rs 3,089	Rs 2,715	Rs 3,078	Rs 6,413	Rs 4,352
<i>Increase/Decrease over last year</i>	100%	93%	109%	81%	87%	88%	114%	207%	69%
SANGHA TAX PAID	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of Families who paid Sangha Tax	2,312	4,346	4,755	4,752	8,820	10,059	12,263	10,548	13,471
<i>Increase/Decrease over last year</i>	100%	188%	109%	100%	186%	114%	122%	86%	134%
Declared/Paid (Compliance Rate)	80%	94%	89%	80%	81%	86%	84%	69%	85%
Total Sangha Tax paid	512,531	1,009,664	1,161,282	848,547	1,983,213	1,533,448	1,868,200	2,186,778	2,913,064
<i>Increase/Decrease over last year</i>	100%	197%	115%	72%	236%	77%	120%	117%	140%
Average Sangha Tax paid	Rs 221	Rs 232	Rs 244	Rs 178	Rs 224	Rs 152	Rs 152	Rs 207	Rs 216
<i>Increase/Decrease over last year</i>	100%	105%	105%	73%	127%	68%	99%	136%	104%
Actual Tax Paid / Income	5.14%	5.77%	5.58%	5.01%	7.28%	5.61%	4.95%	3.23%	4.97%
<i>Supposed to Pay</i>	6%	6%	8%	8%	10%	6%	6%	5%	5%

A.4.2. SOURCES OF INCOME

As is to be expected in a drought with crops failing for 3 successive years, incomes from farming dropped to 33%, and income from off farm ventures dropped to 6%. However, wage income from labour obtained in the village as well as through migration, increased to 50%.

Sources of Declared Income during the year 2002

Income Source	Amount	Percent
Coolie (Village & Migratory Wages)	34,796,605	50%
Farming	23,174,530	33%
Off Farm Ventures	4,355,496	6%
Petty Business	1,600,400	2%
Salaries & Stipends	2,656,008	3%
Other	2,194,490	3%

B. POLITICAL PRESENCE OF COOLIE SANGHA ESTABLISHED**B.1. Presence Rating**

Using 4 parameters (*tax age of the CSU, coverage of the Coolie class, coverage of village population, and caste variety in the membership*) our computer calculate the overall strength and influence of individual village CSUs. Applying algorithms to these factors, an accurate assessment of socio-political presence of each village CSU is arrived at. This is the capacity of the village CSU to influence village/taluk level happenings at a broader societal level – be it communal harmony, establishing corruption-free services, protecting women in families, or whatever.

Socio-political Presence Rating as on 31 March 2003

Excellent	361 village CSUs	43%
Very Good	79 village CSUs	9%
Good	35 village CSUs	4%
Not Good	362 village CSUs	43%

The overall socio-political Presence of the Coolie Sangha in 5 taluks is 35%, with a potential to grow to 54%.

- Psephologists consider a presence of 35% the magic number. This means that the 15,804 Member families, with an average coverage of 34% of their respective village populations, are just 1 percentage point short of making an indelible impression on electoral outcomes on their own, without any opportunistic alliances.
- The Coolie Sangha is 16 percentage points short of absolute socio-political power, but can grow to 54% if all the Cancelled Member families and dropped out CSUs return to the fold.

This presence still creates an enviable sub-Taluk influence, as shown in the below table, with contiguous geographic belts falling under the electoral influence of the Coolie Sangha.

B.2. Civic Benefits

A proxy indicator for socio-political presence, in a non-election year, is the quantity of rent-free benefits and services that the Coolie Sangha is able to tap from Gram & Taluk Panchayats, and also from other government offices.

B.2.1. MONSOON AGENDA '02

As already mentioned, when implementing the Monsoon Agenda '02 from July to November 2002, a total of 2,113 issues pertaining to civic benefits were taken up. 1,226 of these problems were successfully tackled giving a success rate of 58%.

Civic Benefits – Extract from the Monsoon Agenda '02

Qty	Action Item	Desired Results	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
299	Apply for Free Electrification	Application Submitted	7	71	1	6	5	209	70%
168	Apply for Ration Card	Application submitted & verified	4	53			1	110	65%
493	Make a new House Application	Application submitted & verified	5	187	3	5	3	290	59%
41	Make a new House Site Application	Application submitted & verified	2	12				27	66%
243	Follow up House Application & Pending Bills	Bills Obtained	1	119	5	1		116	48%
158	Follow up Electrification Application	Electrification done	1	59		5		93	59%

10	Build Gobar Gas Plant	Built and being used		8				2	20%
3	Follow up Milk Society Application	Milk Collection starts		3					0%
20	Start a New Milk Collection Society	Milk Collection starts	7	1				12	60%
258	Follow up Ration Card Application	Ration Card obtained		180	2	2	6	68	26%
117	Apply for Roads & Drains	Roads & Drains built		10			1	106	91%
86	Get Special Government Scheme	Scheme obtained	8	29		1	1	47	55%
13	Implement Special Government Scheme	Scheme obtained		3				10	77%
29	Contest Milk Society Elections	Seats won	2	17	1			9	31%
59	Get Membership in Coop Society	Share Capital paid	15	14			2	28	47%
47	Apply for Street Lights	Street lights switched on	3	4				40	85%
26	Follow up Street Light application	Street lights switched on	2	1				23	88%
2	Acquire Land for House Sites	Titles distributed		2					0%
21	Apply for Water facility	Water in taps						21	100%
20	Follow up Water facility application	Water in taps		5				15	75%
2,113			57	778	12	20	19	1,226	58%

B.2.2. SUMMER AGENDA '03

Another 2,633 issues have been identified for action in February 2003, in the currently being implemented Summer Agenda '03. Some of these are spill-over issues that were not successfully tackled during the previous baseline. Others are fresh demands made by Member Coolie families. Just 1½ month into it's implementation, the success rate is already 30%.

C. COOLIE WOMEN STRENGTHENED

C.1. Women's Issues

C.1.1. MONSOON AGENDA '02

A total of 1,501 issues pertaining to women in families were identified in the Monsoon Agenda '02. Of them, only 493 (33%) could be solved. Not just due to drought, but also as a result of innate patriarchy, women's issues were not treated with the seriousness they deserved.

- A large number of families agreed to transfer their properties in the joint names of husbands and wives. The village CSUs decided to familiarise themselves with procedures by actually transferring 781 test cases. Only 87 succeeded. Legal and bureaucratic hurdles placed by patriarchal structures thwarted their efforts. Without actually refusing, officials created silly excuses to put off the registration of properties in joint names.
- In the case of 90 outright transfer of entire properties (house and land) the system was stumped. Authorities had no choice but to transfer 25 properties in the names of women, giving a slightly better success rate of 28%.
- 2 widows who wanted a share in their dead husbands' properties succeeded.
- Only 21 out of 59 widows succeeded in getting a regular pension from the government.
- Mahila Meetings were more or less successful in counselling 22 families, and stopping domestic violence in 50 more. 10 husband-wife problems appear to be quite hopeless and divorce seems to be the only solution. But these are not static problems. It is a sad fact that these issues do not have permanent solutions. Situations can just as easily revert back. So there was much discussion as to whether they should be recorded as Successes. We intervened with the suggestion that if the Mahila Meeting was satisfied for the moment, this should be interpreted as Success.
- The Mahila Meetings have conducted 8 choice marriages, failed in 16 and rejected the request of 1 girl.
- Only 260 community bathrooms and 6 smokeless *Chullas* could be built, and the Results were 64% and 46% respectively. Because of the drought, there was a paucity of funds at all levels – with the government, with individual families, and also with the CSUs.

Women in Families – Extract from the Monsoon Agenda '02

Qty	Action Item	Desired Results	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
781	Register Land as Joint Property	Registration Completed		687	2		5	87	11%
90	Register Land to Wife's Name	Registration Completed	3	59			3	25	28%
2	Get Share in Husband's Property	Registration Done						2	100%
40	Apply for a Widow Pension	Application Submitted	1	20	2	2	1	14	35%
19	Follow up Widow Pension Application	Money Reaches Beneficiary		12				7	37%
54	Stop Domestic	Mahila		4				50	93%

	Violence	Meeting Satisfied							
28	Counsel Husband-Wife Problem	Mahila Meeting Satisfied	1	5				22	79%
1	Help a Widow to Re-marry	Marriage Conducted		1					0%
20	Help a Young Girl to Marry	Marriage Conducted		12			2	6	30%
4	Conduct a Simple Marriage	Marriage Conducted		1	1			2	50%
3	Conduct Inter-Religion Celebration	Function Conducted		3					0%
27	Solve VSD Problem	VSD Re-started	1	18				8	30%
409	Build Bathrooms	Bathrooms being Used	4	137	1	3	4	260	64%
13	Build Smokeless Chullas	Chullas being Used		5			2	6	46%
7	Help Single Woman Raise a Crop	Crop Planted		1			2	4	57%
3	Open SB Account for a Woman	Account Opened	3						0%
1,501			13	965	6	5	19	493	33%

C.1.2. SUMMER AGENDA '03

Only 556 issues were identified in the currently ongoing Summer Agenda '03. This is a drop to just 37% of the problems identified in the previous baseline.

As already mentioned, such a steep drop in issues pertaining to Women in Families has to be viewed alongside a sharp increase in Women's Health issues in order to get a satisfactory answer.

ADATS Field Staff need to sit in the Mahila Meetings to find out if, indeed, patriarchy has slipped into the mindset of the euphemistic "mixed" CSUs. Is there, for example, a de-emphasis on women's strategic gender needs (property transfer, *et al*) because practical gender needs (reproductive health) are being addressed?

D. COOLIE CHILDREN HAVE SECURE FUTURE OF THEIR CHOICE

D.1. Gender Analysis

70% of school age children between the ages of 5-17 years are in school. Viewed against our Logframe commitment of 100% admission/retention by March 2011, we still have a long way to go.

- A total of 19,840 Coolie children are supported by their village CSUs continued to attend government school in their respective villages.
- 47% of them are girls, but the sex ratio steadily drops by 10% as we differentiate higher school classes.

This problem can be solved only with the passage of time, provided girl children do not drop out of school at the age of puberty – i.e. after Middle School.

- 50% of supported children belong to the Scheduled Castes & Tribes, 18% to middle castes and 23% to upper castes. This is more or less in consonance with the composition of the village Coolie Sangha Units.

- Only the middle castes maintain a steady presence in all classes of school. SC/ST children lose 15 percentage points from primary school to college, while the upper castes gain 8 percentage points.

These are worrying figures that we need to constantly keep in mind.

Gender Analysis of Coolie Children in School

	Children		Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle Castes	Upper Castes
Primary School	10,385	52%	50%	50%	61%	18%	21%
Middle School	4,523	23%	53%	47%	59%	18%	23%
High School	4,346	22%	60%	40%	56%	18%	27%
College	586	3%	54%	46%	46%	18%	29%
Total	19,840	100%	53%	47%	59%	18%	23%

D.2. Retention Figures

Over the past 3 years, there has been a steady increase in the number of children supported by the village CSUs. This has not come about through a mere increase in primary school admissions followed by dropping out after a few years.

- There is a steady increase in the number of children in Middle School, High School and in College.
- These increases have to be viewed along with the slight drop in Primary School strength.

Read together, the figures show a dramatically increased retention. This can be attributed solely to the efforts of CSU and Mahila Meetings.

Children supported over the years

	Primary School	Middle School	High School	College	Total
2002-2003	10,386	4,524	4,346	584	19,840
2001-2002	9,766	3,675	2,646	302	16,389
2000-2001	10,833	3,496	1,449	162	15,940

D.3. Child Focus

The Coolie Sangha has a clear focus on their children's schooling. A good indicator for this is self-finance. For the past nearly 12 years (*since August 1991*) the Independent CSUs have financed the schooling of 4,119 children (21%) with their Sangha Funds, without any outside support. This figure will rise to 37% in another year when many more Independent CSUs stop getting Consortium grants for their children's schooling.

Source of Support	Number of Children	Percent
Sangha Funds <i>Partial support of Rs 200 per child to offset school books and fees</i>	4,119	21%
Consortium Programme <i>Partial support of Rs 200 per child to offset school books and fees</i>	13,500	68%
Save the Children, New Zealand <i>Full support, including scholarship, Bala-kendras, etc. in Gudibanda taluk</i>	2,221	11%
Total	19,840	100%

D.4. Child Care Issues

D.4.1. MONSOON AGENDA '02

The Monsoon Agenda '02 identified 2,046 action points relating to child care.

- They had a 68% success rate with 1,393 problems solved.
- 492 are still under action, 18 were rejected by the village CSUs and 32 by government authorities.
- The village CSUs failed in solving 91 problems and did not take any action on 20 more.

Child Care – Extract from the Monsoon Agenda '02

Qty	Action Item	Desired Results	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
173	Re-admit Drop-out Child	Enrolled in School	2	2	7	2	16	144	83%
10	Admit Child in Private School	Enrolled in School						10	100%
153	Collect Food Grains for Child	Grain Given		22				131	86%
40	Give Children Clothes	Clothes Distributed		28			12		0%
16	Apply for Child Disability Pension	Pension Reaches		3				13	81%
2	Care for Blind Child	Mahila Meeting Satisfied						2	100%
429	LIC Kids Saving Scheme	Premium Paid	6	170	1		4	248	58%
28	Solve Govt Teacher Problem	Teaching Starts		2		1		25	89%
46	Contest School Betterment Committee	Seats Won			1	2	5	38	83%
86	Arrange Special Tuitions	Tuition Started		44	1		1	40	47%
203	Get a Hostel Seat	Seat Got)		3		27	5	168	83%
2	Change Bus Timing/Route	New Timings		1				1	50%
253	Get School Bus Pass	Passes Got	5	12			15	221	87%
12	Apply for a New Anganwadi	Application Submitted		6			2	4	33%

4	Follow up Anganwadi Application	Anganwadi Starts		1				3	75%
3	Solve Anganwadi Problems	Problem Solved		1				2	67%
12	Buy Land for Balakendra	Land Registered		12					0%
140	Start Balakendra with Sangha Funds	Balakendra Teacher Appointed	1	38				101	72%
6	Repair and Electrify Balakendra	Works Completed		4				2	33%
81	Admit in College/Diploma	Child Enrolled	3	15	2		3	58	72%
186	Arrange Skill Training for Child	Sent for Training	3	64			13	106	57%
70	Send for Computer Training	Sent for Training		29	1		14	26	37%
91	Arrange for Jobs	Jobs Got		35	5		1	50	55%
2,046	Child Care		20	492	18	32	91	1,393	68%

D.4.2. SUMMER AGENDA '03

In the currently being implemented Summer Agenda '03 another 817 action points have been identified with regard to child care. Some, like the follow-up of Anganwadi applications and starting of *Balakendras* with Sangha Funds, are unresolved issues carried over from the previous baseline. Others are new issues that Member Coolie families have come up with.

Just 1½ month into its implementation, the village CSUs have already solved 369 problems and got a success rate of 45%.

E. SURVIVAL CAPACITY OF MEMBER COOLIE FAMILIES ESTABLISHED

E.1. Status of the CCFs

Up until this Progress Report we have only reported on the 3 Extension taluks, omitting Bagepalli taluk. In an attempt to bring uniformity to these Progress Reports, we have decided to henceforth give overall figures. The temporary problem is that figures given in this Progress Report cannot be compared with those in the previous ones.

Status of the CCFs (as on 31 March 2003)

Total CCF Capital		58,656,951	100%
Total of Good Loans		17,759,892	30%
Total of Overdue		18,518,875	32%
1 to 6 Months Late	651,018		4%
7 to 12 Months Late	645,334		3%
Over 1 Year Late	17,222,523		93%
Bad Debts		62,900	
Bank Balances		22,401,074	38%

E.2. CCF Utilisation

- Over the past 19 years, the bulk of CCF borrowing has been for Trade & Entrepreneurship. Much of this borrowings has been for common works undertaken by entire CSUs (government contracts, housing and other civic works), and for common investments.
- The largest number of loans have been for Crop loans, followed by Cattle Rearing.
- In terms of the average amount taken by each borrower, Trade & Entrepreneurship once again tops the list, followed by Agriculture and Cattle trailing in 2nd and 3rd place.
- Consumption comes as a poor last in all categories – amount borrowed, number of loans as well as average borrowing. This suggests that the village CCFs are not responsive enough to meet the small credit needs of ordinary Member families and effectively combat *Ryot* usury.

CCF Utilisation Pattern (as on 31 March 2003)

Purpose	Amount Borrowed		No of Loans		Average borrowing
Crop Loans	37,145,164	28%	25,040	53%	1,483
Agriculture	6,229,386	5%	1,849	4%	3,369
Cattle	30,480,766	23%	10,441	22%	2,919
Trade & Entrepreneurship	57,211,473	43%	8,390	18%	6,819
Consumption & others	1,153,991	1%	1,912	4%	603
Total	132,220,780	100%	47,632	100%	2,775

E.3. Monitoring CCF Activity

3 years of drought has taken its toll on the decentralised credit activity in the village CSUs.

- A total of 3,902 loans have been given out and 11,972 instalments were repaid over the past 3 years.
- But the amount of CCF loans given out and repaid do not contrast so much. The total lending has been Rs 22.95 million and total receipts Rs 25.74 million.
- On the whole, village CSUs have concentrated far more on repaying CCF loan instalments than in giving out fresh loans. For every loan given out, 3 instalments were repaid.

Taken together, these figures indicate that village CSUs have become more selective in giving out loans. Significantly larger amounts are being given out to fewer borrowers after carefully scrutinising borrowing capacity. This is particularly true for the past 6 months.

While this is a welcome move to kill populism and bring fiscal discipline into the activity, it does suggest that the village CCFs are moving towards exclusivity. We have advised caution. While the CCFs should not be a pretentious and unsustainable circus, neither should they aim merely at institutional performance measured by fiscal standards alone.

If substantial crop loans are given out in June/July with the onset of rains, this imbalance should get rectified.

CCF Activity over the past 3 years (as on 31 March 2003)

Cumulative Period	Cumulative Loans Given Out			Cumulative Loans Repaid		
	CSUs	Number	Amount	CSUs	Number	Amount
Previous week	0	0	0	0	0	0
Previous Month	15	42	111,550	63	144	90,551
Previous Quarter	64	173	577,700	131	417	302,434
Previous Half Year	123	420	1,379,450	202	747	683,176
Previous Year	167	707	2,323,050	344	2,165	2,023,937
Previous 2 Years	257	1,220	6,571,273	489	6,578	8,438,584
Previous 3 Years	510	3,902	22,950,126	580	11,972	25,741,078

E.4. CCF Performance**E.4.1. PERFORMANCE RATING**

Our computer constantly assesses the performance of each individual village CCF. As a first step, points are given for the age of each village CCF, volume of capital, number of Member families serviced, and the general scale and uniformity of past activities. As a second step, points are given for timely repayment of loan instalments.

Overall CCF performance is rated at 24% with a potential to rise to 27% in the foreseeable future.

CCF Performance as on 31 March 2003

Excellent	70 village CCFs	10%
Very Good	76 village CCFs	10%
Good	164 village CCFs	23%
Not Good	416 village CCFs	57%

- Rotation of capital stands at 2.25 with Rs 132.2 million worth of loans given with a Capital base of Rs 58.6 million.
- Repayment Rate is at an acceptable 85.99%, though 4 percentage points less than our Logframe target.
- Capital at Risk is extremely high at 32%.

CCF Performance (as on 31 March 2003)

Rotation of Capital		2.25 %
Number of Loans		47,632
Average Borrowing		Rs 2,775
Repayment Rate	$100 - (\text{Overdue} + \text{Bad Debts} / \text{Cumulative Loans} \times 100)$	85.99 %
Capital at Risk	$\text{Overdue} / \text{Capital}$	32 %

E.4.2. QUALITY OF LOAN PORTFOLIO

When we use conventional credit programme indicators, there is much to be done to improve the quality of the loan portfolio.

- The Exposed Portfolio Rate is very high at 52%. It can be brought down to an ideal of 15% only if many more loans are given out.
Crop loans, which account for a major chunk of CCF loans, can be given out only with the onset of timely rains in June/July. Similarly, cattle loans can also be given out only towards the end of the calendar year when the fodder and water positions improve. We expect this performance indicator to improve to 20-30% by September 2003.
- Delinquency Rate is also very high at 51%. It can be brought down to an ideal 15% only if the Overdue problem is relentlessly tackled.
It is lower in the functioning village CSUs, but cancelled villages offset any good performance.
- In spite of all these problems, Recovery Rate is still maintained at a high of 84%. This is because the functioning villages are closer to the ideal of 95%, pushing up the overall rate.

Quality of Loan Portfolio (as on 31 March 2003)

	Functioning Villages	Cancelled Villages	Overall
Exposed Portfolio Rate <i>(outstanding balance of contaminated loans ÷ total outstanding) Ideal = 15%</i>	46%	63%	52%
Delinquency Rate <i>(total overdue ÷ total outstanding) Ideal = 15%</i>	44%	62%	51%
Recovery Rate <i>(repayments made to date ÷ repayments that had to be made to date) Ideal = 95%</i>	87%	78%	84%

E.5. Exploring Business Opportunities

For the past year the CCFs have been, more or less, on the hold. Efforts have been made to improve performance by bringing the Overdue problem under control. But in the meantime all the CSUs have been engaged in mature discussions as to how they should promote entrepreneurship and embark on economic development.

E.5.1. MONSOON AGENDA '02

1,222 issues relating to business opportunities were identified in the Monsoon Agenda '02.

- 592 issues (48%) related to the starting/re-starting of businesses with their own funds and another 275 (23%) related to CCF loans.
- 355 (29%) issues pertained to clearing CCF Overdue.
- They had a 45% success rate with 595 problems solved.
- 521 are still under action, 14 were rejected by the village CSUs and government authorities.
- The village CSUs failed in solving 61 problems and did not take any action on 31 more.

Business Opportunities – Extract from the Monsoon Agenda '02

Qty	Action Item	Desired Results	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
26	Own Funds - Start Rearing Cattle	Business runs for 2 months		9				17	65%
177	Own Funds - Start a New Cattle Trade	Business runs for 2 months		36			1	140	79%

211	Own Funds - Start a New Petty Trade	Business runs for 2 months		63				148	70%
126	Own Funds - Start a New Petty Shop	Business runs for 2 months	1	35		1	1	88	70%
21	Own Funds - Start a New Poultry	Business runs for 2 months	1	7	1			12	57%
31	Own Funds - Start a New Chandrankis Trade	Business runs for 2 months		14				17	55%
78	CCF - Expand Cattle Rearing	CCF Given	8	40	7		7	16	21%
56	CCF - Expand Existing Cattle Trade	CCF Given	1	36			5	14	25%
75	CCF - Expand Existing Petty Trade	CCF Given	7	45			10	13	17%
52	CCF - Expand Existing Petty Shop	CCF Given	1	38	5		2	6	12%
14	CCF - Expand Existing Chandrankis Trade	CCF Given	1	7			1	5	36%
355	Clear CCF Overdue	Overdue Cleared	11	191			34	119	34%
1,222			31	521	13	1	61	595	49%

E.5.2. SUMMER AGENDA '03

The currently ongoing Summer Agenda '03 shows a similar mood and emphasis, with 393 issues identified. 286 issues (73%) relate to the starting/re-starting of businesses with their own funds and 89 cases (23%) relate to CCF loans. 1½ months into its implementation, the village CSUs have succeeded in solving only 33 problems (8%).

F. SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE PRACTICES SET IN PLACE

F.1. "Drought is Not a Problem!"

The year 2002 started very bad. The December 2001 harvest was less than 20% with crops failing for the 2nd year in a row. Everyone had mixed feelings. On the one hand was a general disbelief that dry land cultivation could ever be profitable. On the other hand was an increased and intensified faith, bordering on the fetish, on the Coolie Sangha.

ADATS had to step in and forcefully state that drought was not the problem. It was an act of nature that we could do nothing about. We would squarely face all and every problem that arose because of drought without lamenting about the lack of rains. We listed possible hardships as forced migration and associated problems, lack of employment, hunger, starvation, increased illnesses, lack of cattle fodder and water. Within a few weeks we killed all apathy and resignation and instead created a euphoria that bordered on bravado!

F.2. Coolie Lands & the DLDP

F.2.1. PATTERN OF LAND HOLDING

15,804 Normal Member families own 52,159 acres of land. 92% of this land (48,176 acres) is rainfed, with only a single crop a year.

12% families are landless and another 15% each own more than 5 acres of dry land. All are land poor agricultural labourers, totally dependent on a non-viable subsistence cultivation for their food security.

Pattern of Land Holding (as on 31 March 2003)

Land Holding	Member Families	Percent
Landless Members	1,885	12%
0.1 to 1 acre	1,088	7%
1.1 to 2 acres	3,328	21%
2.1 to 3 acres	3,171	20%
3.1 to 4 acres	2,470	16%
4.1 to 5 acres	1,501	9%
Over 5 acres	2,361	15%
	15,804	100%

F.2.2. AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR A COOLIE FAMILY

The traditional crop on dry lands is groundnut, inter-cultivated with alternating rows of non-commercial pulses, lentils, oilseeds and fodder crops. Cash from the sale of groundnuts, food grains grown on a Coolie's holdings, plus wage earnings from *Ryot* lands, are enough for 2-3 months of subsistence living, from about January through March. This is also the time when their own non-commercial crops come to harvest. The last 3 months of summer are hell, and most able bodied men are forced to migrate.

Women, children and the aged stay back, tending to their homes and grazing the odd cattle that they own against severe odds of shrinking grasslands and depleting water holes.

With the onset of monsoon rains in June/July, Coolie men return to their villages to till their own lands and, more importantly, earn a wage income from *Ryot* lands. This lasts for 2-2½ months till about mid September. After that the demand for labour drops with only occasional calls for de-weeding. But most Coolies cannot temporarily migrate for these 2-3 months since their own crops are also on the fields. In December/January, demand for labour peaks once again since the pulling out of groundnuts from the earth is very labour intensive.

But for the last 3 years, the situation has been terrible. In the year 2000 average yields were less than 50%. It dropped to 20% in 2001. Last year, the dry lands were left completely barren.

F.2.3. DLDP WORKS DONE

Over the past 17 years, Rs 45.17 million worth of soil and water conservation (S&WC) works have been done on 39,389 acres of Coolie lands.

One able bodied person from each Member Coolie family forms a work gang. They have descended on each other's holdings according to DLDP Plans which allocated a fixed number of work days to each holding. S&WC works were carried out on these holdings in order to reduce soil erosion and increase rainwater retention capacity of the fields.

DLDP Works Done (as on 31 March 2003)

Acres	Percent	Work Done	Value
12,469	32%	1 year work done	5,611,050
9,394	24%	2 years work done	8,454,600
7,880	20%	3 years work done	10,638,000
5,218	13%	4 years work done	9,392,400
2,568	7%	5 years work done	5,778,000
1,368	3%	6 years work done	3,693,600
377	1%	7 years work done	1,187,550
98	0%	8 years work done	352,800
17	0%	9 years work done	68,850
39,389	100%		Rs 45,176,850

F.2.4. DLDP WORKS NEEDED

As soon as a Coolie family joins the village CSU, all her landholdings are immediately surveyed by our Agriculturists and entered into the database. This data includes the extent in acres, title in whose name the land stands, source of irrigation, gradient, quality of contour bunds, number of years of S&WC works already done on the holding, and an estimate of the number of years of further work needed.

Every year, as soon as DLDP works are completed, the number of years of work done is increased by 1, and the number of years needed is reduced by 1. This re-worked data is then taken to the village where all the Members together revisit each field, along with our Agriculturists, in order to verify that the information is correct.

Based on this annual and established practice we estimate that, as of today, 28% of the holdings of Normal Member families in currently functioning village CSUs do not need any more S&WC works. As a result of our earlier work, their fields are protected against erosion and the chances of rainwater seeping into the top soil and supporting crop growth has increased. In other words, these fields are as good as adjacent fields of richer farmers.

On the remaining holdings we need to make a total investment of Rs 36.7 million over the next 5 years.

DLDP Works Needed (as on 31 March 2003)

Acres	Percent	Work Needed	Amount
13,713	28%	No work needed	
8,573	18%	1 year work needed	3,857,850
10,887	23%	2 years work needed	9,798,300
10,460	22%	3 years work needed	14,121,000
2,864	6%	4 years work needed	5,155,200
1,679	3%	5 years work needed	3,777,750
48,176	100%		Rs 36,710,100

F.3. Is the DLDP a Sound Strategy to Tackle Drought?

Soil & Water Conservation structures are long term investments made on dry lands, aimed at reducing soil erosion and increasing the rainwater retention capacity of individual fields within a watershed. Increased soil moisture supports a crop stand and helps it tide over a reasonable dry spell.

The ecological debate on whether contour bunds, retention walls, diversion channels, farm ponds and the like actually stop soil erosion is never ending, confused with extremely complex measurements. Similarly the argument as to whether rainwater can really be prevented from eventually flowing to the ocean. But at a practical level, it has been convincingly demonstrated that, after some years, soil moisture increases and crop yields do improve.³

ADATS has been supporting the village CSUs to use their functional unity to implement the DLDP for the past 17 years. Since most Coolie holdings were barren or under-cultivated, and also because virgin soils were less depleted than heavily cultivated fields, there were dramatic initial increases in yields. These dramatic increases quickly stabilised to sub-regional averages.

Long before a plateau effect set in through the over exploitation of dry lands, ADATS encouraged the Coolies to adopt environmentally friendly measures that respect the carrying capacity of top soils.

- Mono-cropping has been resisted and Coolies are encouraged to revert to the age old practice of inter-cultivating commercial, food and fodder crops on alternating rows.
- Chemical fertilizers are limited to ½ bag of di-ammonium phosphate per acre since the availability of farm yard manures is extremely limited due to low biomass.
- Green manuring is attempted whenever we have early rains before June.
- Alluvial silt from the tank bunds is hauled onto Coolie fields to improve soil structure.
- Deep ploughing is taken up, once every 3-4 years, to turn the top soil.
- The use of pesticides is completely discouraged.
- Severely degraded saline patches are converted into community woodlots. Natural regeneration is encouraged through a protection of steep slopes.
- Grasses and shrubs are allowed to grow on the contour bunds in spite of field mice problems. *Agave* fencing is encouraged. Goats are discouraged and sheep rearing promoted.
- DLDP works are deliberately staggered in particular villages, with gaps given for soils to recuperate and natural filling take place, instead of adopting the cut and fill method. *This is the reason why, though the programme is 17 years old, no holdings have been worked on for more than 9 years.*

But the 3 measures that we consider most important are:

- A high level of self-help and volunteerism that is consciously promoted by keeping DLDP wages to the barest minimum (just about enough to support body and soul) even when prevailing wage rates are 2-3 times higher. *This was not the case 17 years back, when we first started the programme. At that time it was our objective to artificially intervene in the wage market and force agricultural wages up.*
- Permanent S&WC structures (stone bunds instead of mud bunds, etc.) created through an uncompromising adherence to quality.
- Coolie women consciously and deliberately included as decision makers in agriculture at the family level.

The problem with any watershed approach is that it is a long term solution to a very serious environmental problem of desertification. It is not the quick and easy road to make a fast buck, and thereby clashes with mainstream aspirations. It is a strategy that involves, to a degree, a blind leap of faith into a promised future. Even those who make serious choices are entitled to occasional bouts of self doubt and depression.

³ The axiom of being approximately right than precisely wrong is, by now, widely used to justify the watershed approach

F.4. 1st Phase DLDP Works – March to June 2002

F.4.1. TOOLS & IMPLEMENTS

1,900 sets of a crowbar, spade and iron pan were procured at a cost of Rs 0.42 million. They were distributed to double the number of families who were undertaking DLDP works for the very first time. With this, about 12,000 Member families each have a set of tools and implements, and the remaining 3,800 share a set each between 2 families. Economising was done in order to have more moneys available for direct wage payments.

These tools are not only for implementing DLDP works, but for their general use as agricultural labourers.

F.4.2. DLDP WAGES PAID FROM MARCH TO JUNE 2002

163 village-wise DLDP Plans were given out during the month of March 2002 for 4,690 Member Coolie families to work on 14,810 acres of land. The CSUs divided themselves into manageable work gangs, descended on an average of 3.16 acres per Member family and conducted various S&WC works like pebble and rock clearance, contour bunding, ravine and gully check, etc.

A total of Rs 4.51 million was paid out as wages in this 1st phase of the DLDP in 4 taluks.

F.4.3. S&WC WORKS CARRIED OUT FROM MARCH TO JUNE 2002

By the time DLDP works started in late February 2002, there was a genuine enthusiasm and belief that working on dry landholdings would indeed reduce soil erosion and prepare their fields to retain rainwater a little while longer. This would, in turn, increase soil moisture and give standing crops a chance to survive the dry spell. In short they considered S&WC works as useful and beneficial.

Member Coolies worked relentlessly in the hot sun and did some very impressive works. They built 259,521 metres of new contour bunds, checked 36,183 metres ravines and gullies, cleared pebbles and boulders on 3,720 acres, and reclaimed 340 acres of new land for cultivation.

1st Phase DLDP (March to June 2002) – S&WC Works Carried out

	Quantity	Measurement Unit
New Bunds	259,521	Metres
Ravine & Gully Check	36,183	Metres
Cleared Pebbles & Boulders	3,720	Acres
Virgin Land Reclaimed	340	Acres

F.4.4. SILT HAULING (MARCH TO JUNE 2002)

Silt hauling was taken up in 112 villages which did not receive DLDP Plans. Those who had finished all their S&WC works wanted to haul alluvial silt from the tank beds onto their fields in order to improve soil texture and fertility.

In April and May 2002, a total of 7,108 acres belonging to 2,321 Member families were treated with silt, spending a total of Rs 2.01 million on tractor hire charges. These tractors were hired from friendly *Ryots*, at about 60% the current market rate, to haul alluvial silt onto Coolie lands, with voluntary labour from Member families, investing an average of Rs 287 on each acre. Absolutely no wage payments were paid to the participating families.

F.5. 2nd Phase DLDP Works – October to December 2002

F.5.1. DLDP WAGES PAID FROM OCT TO DEC 2002

In June/July 2002 disaster struck with a vengeance. The rains totally failed and not a single acre of dry land was ploughed or planted in 5 taluks. Coolies and *Ryots* alike watched in stunned disbelief as the drought entered its 3rd successive year.

In the meantime, we had made a lot of progress on Process Reengineering and digitization/automation. Our browser based application could effortlessly generate DLDP Plans, allocate villages to respective Field Workers, monitor works, and electronically transfer pay orders to Accounts. This made it possible for us to take on a much larger volume of work without compromising on quality.

- Village-wise DLDP Plans were automatically generated based on the individual assessment of each landholding.
- Agriculturists and Field Workers visited as many works as they could during implementation. These were mandatory visits to check attendance registers, give technical advice, and to iron out problems.
- On the completion of each work, the respective Field Worker compulsorily made a “Final Visit” to measure the actual work done and note attendance.
- These measurements and attendances were recorded into our database using the newly developed ADATS/Coolie Sangha Intranet.
- Pay orders were electronically transferred to the concerned Accounts Staff.
- Accounts Staff then went to the same fields and made DLDP wage payments on the spot, directly to each participating family – i.e. to those who actually laboured on the fields, and not to the landowners.

This new monitoring software calculated the average time between the work finish date and the Final Visits by Field Workers as 3 days. But the average time between this Final Visit and actual payment by Accounts was a disappointing 13 days.

- Accounts Staff have to work extra hard to improve efficiency figures.
- As a reward, ADATS will give basic agriculture training to Accounts Staff since they find it frustrating to visit all the work spots merely in order to dole out wage payments.

Rs 9.27 million worth of DLDP Plans were given out in 277 villages in order to undertake these additional 3 months of DLDP works from October to December 2002. Of this, Rs 5.1 million was utilised as DLDP wages by 31 December 2002 when the programme was stopped for the year.

55% utilisation does not indicate any lack of interest or inefficiency. It is just that DLDP Plans which were automatically generated, based on the needs of each landholding, were for much longer time periods than the 3 months remaining in the current calendar year. Spill over works will be carried out in the current year.

2nd Phase DLDP (October to December 2002) – Plan & Utilisation

Taluk	Villages	Plan		Completed	
		Works	Allotment	Works	Paid
Bagepalli	106	2,982	4,129,800	1,735	2,231,250
Chickballapur	44	1,117	1,216,035	636	632,505
Chintamani	73	1,914	2,472,510	1,350	1,609,470
Siddalaghatta	28	577	803,775	349	445,215
Gudibanda	26	655	648,540	209	182,010
TOTAL	277	7,245	9,270,660	4,279	5,100,450

F.5.2. S&WC WORKS CARRIED OUT FROM OCT TO DEC 2002

Once again, impressive works were carried out with the building of new contour bunds topping the list. As can be seen from the below table, the measurement of actual works done is far more detailed and comprehensive.

2nd Phase DLDP (October to December 2002) – S&WC Works Carried out

Number	Description of Work	Quantity	Unit
19	Built Cattle Wall	1,291	Metres
491	Built Field Bunds	32,750	Metres
2,451	Built New Contour Bunds	196,853	Metres
6	Built Path/Road	548	Metres
275	Built Retention Wall (Kanji)	17,236	Metres
234	Checked Ravine & Gully	234	
284	Cleared Shrubs & Boulders	2,032	Acres
13	Deepened Open Well	13	
265	Dug Diversion Channel	24,784	Metres
17	Dug Farm Pond	17	
213	Strengthened Existing Bunds	19,952	Metres
11	Wasted Work	191	Acres

F.6. Agriculture Issues**F.6.1. MONSOON AGENDA '02**

5,130 issues were identified relating to the Member Coolie families' Agricultural needs in the 2nd half of 2002. In spite of drought, overcoming initial moods of fear and apathy, 2,638 problems (51%) were solved.

Agriculture – Extract from the Monsoon Agenda '02

Qty	Action Item	Desired Results	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
974	Plough and Cultivate	Crop Planted	26	15	22		124	787	81%
1,116	Insure Crops	Premium Paid	12	14		103	478	509	46%
1,298	Plant Tamarinds/Mangoes	Saplings Planted	38	856	9		129	266	20%
434	Insure Cattle	Premium Paid	3	147	2	2	9	271	62%

11	Make Road to Fields	Road Completed		1				10	91%
255	Get Agricultural Subsidies from Government	Benefits Got				78	12	165	65%
350	Collect and Give Seeds	Seeds Given		3	8		11	328	94%
35	Develop Kitchen Garden	Kitchen Garden Established	5	5				25	71%
85	Get <i>Darkasth/ Saguvalli Chitti</i>	Tax Paid		70		1		14	16%
44	Get Land Title Deed	Title Deed Got	3	16				25	57%
283	Change Crop (not Horticulture)	Other Crop Planted		27			103	153	54%
227	Give Crop Loans	CCF Given	5	53	53		49	67	33%
18	Send for Agriculture Training	Sent for Training						18	100%
5,130	Agriculture		92	1,207	94	184	915	2,638	51%

F.6.2. SUMMER AGENDA '03

Another 821 issues have been identified under the currently being implemented Summer Agenda '03. 34 problems (4%) have already been solved and another 111 (14%) are Under Action. The village CSUs have not yet started acting on 672 problems (82%).