

## 0323. 15<sup>th</sup> Progress Report on the Consortium Programme (Nov 2003)

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The 8 Objectives to which the 3½ year old 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 3 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

There is no change in membership figures over the past 8 months. This is because after membership lists were finalised at the village CSU level through Income Declaration in December 2002 and Tax Payments in January 2003, there have only been some minor data corrections.

#### Membership & Coverage as on 30 November 2003

	3 <sup>rd</sup> Consortium Application	Last Report	This Report
1st 3 year Formation phase	61	19	<b>19</b>
2nd 3 year Formalisation phase	117	83	<b>83</b>
3rd 3 year Consolidation phase	236	125	<b>125</b>
Independent CSUs	174	310	<b>310</b>
Total Villages	588	537	<b>537</b>
Normal Member Families	15,081	15,804	<b>15,804</b>
Women Memberships		5,085 (32%)	<b>5,142 (33%)</b>
Coverage of Village Population		34%	<b>34%</b>

#### A.2. Customer Demands & Satisfaction (CD&S) surveys <sup>1</sup>

The final results of the CD&S Summer Agenda '03, which lasted from February to July 2003, shows that 4,526 of the 7,523 listed Demands could be satisfactorily met, giving an overall Result of 60%.

Results were particularly dismal in Agriculture due to the drought.

<sup>1</sup> Previously referred to as "Baseline Making/Implementation"

**CD&S Survey – Summer Agenda 2003**

Qty	Action Item	No Action	Under Action	CSU Reject	Govt Reject	Failed	Success	
821	Agriculture	398	222	2	2	5	192	23%
817	Child Care	121	78	2	-	6	610	75%
393	Business Opportunities	36	65	10	-	3	279	71%
425	Justice	103	130	5	-	3	184	43%
581	Old Age	120	84	10	10	7	350	60%
888	Health	212	66	1	1	5	603	68%
556	Women in Families	126	131	4	1	-	294	53%
2,797	Civic Benefits	342	560	12	6	18	1,859	66%
245	Safety Net	32	51	7	-	-	155	63%
<b>7,523</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4,526</b>	<b>60%</b>

Secondary stakeholders (*ADATS Field Staff and Coolie Sangha functionaries*) were reluctant to admit outright failure. 1,387 Demands were shown as “Under Action” even at the time of closing this Agenda in July 2003. They wanted to carry over these unaccomplished line items into the next Agenda.

We suggested that they critically discuss the reasons why they failed to get Results, even if they chose the euphemism of “Under Action”. August 2003 saw village CSUs and Cluster Meets analyse their CD&S Summer Agenda ’03 performance.

### A.3. “Baseline” to Customer Demands & Satisfaction (CD&S)

The most startling revelation of this grassroots reflection was something quite unexpected. Some Cluster functionaries and even a few Field Workers viewed line items in the hitherto “Baseline Surveys” as a list of good deeds to do.

- If they identified, for example, 3 orphan children who needed care, this did not mean that there were no more abandoned orphan in their Cluster villages. It was simply a small gesture of their personal goodwill towards deserted waifs and strays.

Member Coolies in the villages were not happy with this attitude, but unable to put their finger on the problem.

ADATS brought down the weight of the organisation to condemn this deplorable attitude. Small and poor peasant families were not our “Target Group” we declared. They were Customers who should be given our total and undivided attention. The poor were not our “Beneficiaries”. They were Customers whose every demand should be individually addressed.

Member families paid far more than an annual Sangha Tax to perfunctorily renew membership. They earned their right to be treated as Customers through the loyalty and trust they placed in the organisation. They trusted us completely to abandon long established survival strategies and burn bridges with the *Ryots*. They gave us an ungrudging license to interfere with their most private caste practices and family relations, a rare privilege that few social workers enjoyed.

Anyone who wanted to do “a spot of social work” and gain indulgences was free to quit the organisation and seek self-actualisation and self-aggrandisement elsewhere. Henceforth the Coolie caste-class in general, and tax paying Member Coolie families in particular, would be treated as our most valuable commodity – Customers.

This is when we changed the hitherto “Baselines” to “Customer Demands & Satisfaction” – a far bigger amendment than mere nomenclature.

#### A.4. CD&S surveys – Monsoon Agenda '03

The whole of September 2003 was spent in making fresh village level CD&S surveys to finalise the Monsoon Agenda 2003. There was a new mood of confident faith and proud participation in this exercise which was being carried out for the 5<sup>th</sup> successive time in the past 3 years.

A total of 7,029 Demands were identified under 9 broad Categories, each being a conversion of day-to-day Life Activities into Development Processes.

##### Customer Demands in the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03

<b>CATEGORY</b> <i>(Life Process Description)</i>	<b>NUMBER OF DEMANDS</b>
CULTIVATION <i>(Poor Crops &amp; Barren Lands to Good Crops &amp; Food Security)</i>	495
CHILD REARING <i>(Neglected Childhood &amp; Perfunctory Schooling to Cared for Childhood)</i>	911
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES <i>(Precarious single income sources to Diversified Incomes from many activities)</i>	230
JUSTICE <i>(Blatant discrimination to Citizen Rights)</i>	178
OLD AGE <i>(Neglected &amp; Discarded to Respect &amp; Care)</i>	548
HEALTH	1,403
WOMEN IN FAMILIES <i>(Lack of Identity, Dignity &amp; Status to Decision Making Authority)</i>	540
CIVIC BENEFITS <i>(Benefits through influence, middlemen and bribes to a Rights Based approach)</i>	2,117
SAFETY NET	607
<b>TOTAL DEMANDS</b>	<b>7,029</b>

Village CSUs started off by making their Demands realistic and time-bound in order to achieve a higher rate of success than last time. Yet the same type of Demands that have earlier failed to give Results crept in. The obvious conclusion was that these were genuine and pressing requirements of Member Coolie families.

CSUs realised that they would once again fail to get Results unless they were prepared to tackle the root cause of the problem – government lethargy and official corruption.

#### A.5. Corruption Survey

In the Gudibanda Taluk Coolie Sangha (GCS) Meeting of October 2003, after officially adopting their CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03, elected functionaries decided to strike against government ineptitude and apathy. They fixed a date when thousands would gather at their Taluk headquarters and *gherao* government offices and elected representatives.

The Bagepalli Coolie Sangha (BCS) flatly turned down their request for permission. BCS functionaries insisted that unless they could gather concrete proof of corruption and malpractice, a general strike would turn out to be a wishy-washy affair wherein Coolie Sangha functionaries would “show their mobilisation capacity” and Member Coolies would “vent their anger”, but achieve little else. The Taluk Coolie Sangha was advised to gather a minimum of

25 concrete instances of drought relief funds being misused and anti-poverty scheme applicants being refused for not paying a bribe.

From this was born a huge grassroots campaign to systematically document corruption and malpractice. Within days, the remaining 4 Taluks decided to undertake similar surveys. Since the effort is only 2 months old at the time of writing this Progress Report, we will not now elaborate.

## A.6. Overall Performance

Performance figures are not the same as Results or success-rate. As explained in an earlier Progress Report, the computer uses complicated algorithms to calculate Performance. The actual number of Demands identified/tackled in each village CSU is an important factor.

Overall performance in the Customer Demands & Satisfaction (CD&S) surveys stands at 38% and less than half the villages have qualified for a Very Good/Excellent rating.

### CD&S Performance (30 November 2003)

Excellent	94 village CSUs	18%
Very Good	141 village CSUs	28%
Good	147 village CSUs	29%
Not Good	130 village CSUs	25%

## A.7. Sangha Funds

### A.7.1. BANK BALANCES

Sangha Fund balances<sup>2</sup> grew by 1.42% in the past 8 months. It stood at Rs 39.26 million on 30 November 2003 (*up from Rs 38.7 million on 31 March 2003*).

There were 2 reasons for this extremely modest growth:

- Firstly, no fresh Sangha Fund contributions came in during this reporting period, after everyone paid up their Sangha Tax in January 2003.
- Moreover, all the interest earned by individual village CSU bank accounts was spent on giving out scholarship benefits to thousands of school going children, meeting referral health expenses, etc.

### Overall Sangha Funds (as on 30 November 2003)

	31 March 2003		30 November 2003	
Village Fixed Deposits	31,179,217		31,179,217	
Village SB Accounts	5,389,848		6,920,000	
Taluk Main Fixed Deposits	450,000		450,000	
Taluk Main SB Accounts	1,688,578	<b>38,707,643</b>	706,649	<b>39,255,866</b>

### A.7.2. SPENDING OF SANGHA FUNDS

Huge expenses to the tune of Rs 2.33 million were made by the village CSUs during this 8 month reporting period, using their Sangha Funds.

<sup>2</sup> Please bear in mind that we report on *bank balances* that remain after expenses, and not on income/collections made during the reporting period

Head of Account	Spent from 1 April to 30 November 2003	
<b>On Coolie Children:</b>		
○ Stipends for CSU appointed <i>Balakendra</i> Teachers	405,997	17%
○ Scholarship for school going children	680,030	29%
○ Maintenance of <i>Balakendra</i> buildings	26,267	1%
<b>On Community Health:</b>		
○ Stipends for Village Health Workers (VHWs)	305,988	13%
○ Monthly Medicine kits for VHWs	453,567	19%
○ Medical Aid for patients referred to big hospitals	92,506	4%
<b>On Relief &amp; Pensions</b>		
○ Legal Aid & Aid Distress	270,697	12%
○ Old Age Pensions (over and above what they get from government schemes)	91,200	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 2,326,252</b>	<b>100%</b>

## B. POLITICAL PRESENCE OF COOLIE SANGHA ESTABLISHED

As in previous Progress Reports, we will continue to use proxy indicators to measure for socio-political presence in non-election years.

### B.1. Civic Benefits

The quantity of rent-free benefits and services that the village CSUs are able to tap from government sources is the first such proxy indicator.

#### B.1.1. CD&S SUMMER AGENDA '03

Of 2,797 Demands identified in the just completed CD&S Summer Agenda '03, 1,859 (66%) were successfully resolved. At the time of closing this Agenda in July 2003, no action was taken on 342 Demands (12%), and 560 (20%) were shown as "Under Action".

#### B.1.2. CD&S MONSOON AGENDA '03

The presently being implemented CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03 was started in September. 2,117 fresh Demands have been identified under Civic Benefits, and another 548 under Old Age. Many of these Demands are a carry-over of incomplete line items from the previous Agenda.

**Civic Benefits & Old Age Issues – Extract from the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03**

<b>CATEGORY</b> <i>(Life Process Description)</i>	<b>CUSTOMER DEMANDS</b>	<b>QTY</b>
<b>CIVIC BENEFITS</b> <i>(Benefits through influence, middlemen and bribes to a Rights Based approach)</i>	Acquire land for house sites in 33 villages; Make 35 new House Site applications and follow up on 191 previous application/pending bills; apply for 449 free Electrifications and follow up 52 previous applications; electrify 6 houses with own funds; repair 6 houses with own funds; repair 93 houses with government funds Apply for 293 Ration Cards and follow up on 347 previous applications; make 7 voter ID cards Apply for 75 roads and drains; clean 17 drains with community efforts; apply for 52 water supply systems and follow up on 8 previous applications; repair 3 water supply systems with own funds; apply for 37 street lights and follow up on 16 previous applications; build 1 gobar gas plant Start 14 new Milk Collection Societies and follow up on 5 previous applications; contest 7 director elections; Get 39 special government schemes and implement 14 already sanctioned	<b>2,117</b>
<b>OLD AGE</b> <i>(Neglected &amp; Discarded to Respect &amp; Care)</i>	Make 283 new Old Age Pension applications; Follow up on 59 previous applications; Give 197 persons extra benefits from Sangha Funds Apply for 6 Senior Citizen Bus Passes Solve 4 cases of old people getting cheated;	<b>548</b>

**B.2. Justice**

Yet another proxy indicator of socio-political presence is the village CSUs' ability to resolve disputes on the basis of gender justice.

**B.2.1. CD&S SUMMER AGENDA '03**

In the just completed CD&S Summer Agenda '03, a total of 425 Demands were recorded under this category. Of them, 184 Demands (43%) were successfully resolved. At the time of closing this Agenda in July 2003, 103 Demands (24%) had not been acted upon, and 130 Demands (31%) were still shown as "Under Action".

In order to achieve even these limited Results, the village CSUs spent Rs 270,697 from their Sangha Funds to give legal aid for lawyers' fees in civil and criminal cases.

<b>Sangha Funds Spent On Relief &amp; Pensions</b>	<b>1 April to 30 November 2003</b>	
o Legal Aid & Aid Distress	270,697	75%
o Old Age Pensions <i>(over and above what they get from government schemes)</i>	91,200	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>361,897</b>	<b>100%</b>

**B.2.2. CD&S MONSOON AGENDA '03**

The presently being implemented CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03 has identified a total of 178 Demands.

- 48 Demands relate to the solving inter-CSU squabbles, often within families. If these are not resolved by the Coolie Sangha, they will give a perfect opportunity for adversaries to intervene and destroy hard won unity.
- Another 40 Demands are to solve issues that CSU Members have with outsiders.

- 9 disputes need to be compromised outside courts and police stations.
- 62 Member families have demanded legal aid to pay lawyers, and 19 issues of mortgage and bondage need to be addressed.

#### Justice – Extract from the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03

CATEGORY (Life Process Description)	CUSTOMER DEMANDS	QTY
<b>JUSTICE</b> (Blatant discrimination to Citizen Rights)	Solve 21 land disputes, 10 house disputes and 17 house site disputes within families Solve 39 land disputes with outsiders; 1 land boundary dispute; Compromise 3 cases which are in the police station and 6 cases which are in court Give legal aid for 36 criminal cases and 26 civil cases; Release 16 mortgaged lands; Negotiate and release 3 bonded labourers	<b>178</b>

## C. COOLIE WOMEN STRENGTHENED

### C.1. Women's Issues

#### C.1.1. CD&S SUMMER AGENDA '03

8 months back we reported a drop of 63% in the number of women's issues identified in the Customer Demands & Satisfaction (CD&S) survey. We then stated that this was due to a de-emphasis on women's strategic gender needs in the Coolie Sangha. We admitted that patriarchal trends had crept into the Coolie Sangha. ADATS Field Staff had committed themselves to root out patriarchy from the mindset of the village CSUs.

Results in Women's issues now show signs of improvement. Village level attempts to correct earlier mistakes are slowly beginning to pay off, but concerted efforts need to continue for a very long time to come. Of the 556 Demands identified in the just completed CD&S Summer Agenda '03, 294 (53%) were successfully solved.

#### C.1.2. CD&S MONSOON AGENDA '03

The presently being implemented CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03 has identified another 540 Demands related to women in families. However, the emphasis still remains on practical gender needs (89%) and not so much on strategic gender needs (11%).

- The vast majority, 480 Demands, are for various assistances like widow pensions, bathrooms, etc.
- 30 Demands are to counsel husband-wife problems, solve domestic violence, help in choice marriages, etc.
- The remaining 26 Demands pertain to property rights issues.

#### Women in Families – Extract from the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03

CATEGORY (Life Process Description)	CUSTOMER DEMANDS	QTY
<b>WOMEN IN FAMILIES</b> (Lack of Identity, Dignity & Status to Decision Making Authority)	Apply for 47 new Widow Pensions and follow up on 19 previous applications; Build 397 bathrooms; Solve 17 <i>Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu</i> problems Counsel 14 husband-wife problems; Stop 10 cases of domestic violence; Conduct 1 simple marriage; Help 5 young girls marry boys of their choice; Register 13 properties in joint names of husbands and wives; register 5 properties exclusively in wives' names; Get 6 women share in husbands' Properties; Get 2 woman share in <i>Puttina Illu</i> Property;	<b>540</b>



Additionally, there are another 1,403 Demands pertaining to women and child health.

#### Health – Extract from the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03

CATEGORY (Life Process Description)	CUSTOMER DEMANDS	QTY
HEALTH	Arrange 66 Children's Health Camp; send 135 children to specialised hospitals; send 236 women for cancer check-up; send 300 women and 327 men to specialised hospitals; send 53 women for family planning operations; send 277 patients for eye check-up; Get government doctors appointed in 3 PHCs Send 5 VHWS for training and improve the kit of 1 VHW	1,403

### C.2. Decentralised Health Budget

Health grants were not given out to the Mahila Meetings during this reporting period.

Mahila Meetings had to use their Sangha Funds, over which they exercise total and exclusive control, with customary care and caution. As usual, no health bill was passed without proper bills and receipts. Sangha Funds were also used to pay the VHW stipend and buy monthly first aid medicine packets for each Mahila Meeting.

They spent a total of Rs 852,061 on health related items, including stipends (36%), monthly supply of medicines (53%) and referral bills (11%).

Sangha Funds Spent On Community Health:	1 April to 30 November 2003	
o Stipends for Village Health Workers (VHWs)	305,988	36%
o Monthly Medicine kits for VHWs	453,567	53%
o Medical Aid for patients referred to big hospitals	92,506	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 852,061</b>	<b>100%</b>

### C.3. Health Camps

Coolie women have finally taken a firm stand on their health, be it reproductive or other ailment. Apart from stating their health Demands in CD&S surveys, they have gone a step forward. With the help of Mahila Trainers, they have started visiting government hospitals for general health check-up and treatment. Anyone with experience in community health will realise that this is a huge breakthrough.

The tone and tenor of Health Camps has changed over the past 16 years. Nowadays, these Camps are not held so much to satisfy the self-actualisation needs of health professionals. Instead they have become a logical response to expressed needs for cervical cancer check-up or laparoscopy or eye treatment or whatever.

The impact of this new and exciting culture has begun to seep into villages with no CSUs.

#### C.3.1. CERVICAL CANCER DETECTION

7 Cervical Cancer Detection Camps were held for 520 Coolie women in this reporting period. These were not free-for-all camps – every patient who came had been screened in her respective village by our Village Health Workers.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Nearly all the VHWS have been thoroughly trained in the early detection and treatment of cervical cancer and other reproductive disorders.



All 520 women and their sexual partners were given medication for minor infections and early cancer. 81 women were diagnosed with prolapsed uterus, and 58 of them underwent surgery in a hospital at Chickballapur.

A team of doctors, nurses and technicians from St. John's Hospital, Bangalore, conducted these camps. During this reporting period, we did not involve our longstanding partner, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Taluk	Camps Held	No of Women Examined/Treated	Diagnosed with Prolapsed Uterus	Operated Upon
Bagepalli	3	188	27	16
Chickballapur	1	60	10	6
Chintamani	1	97	32	32
Siddalaghatta	1	63	8	0
Gudibanda	1	112	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>58</b>

### C.3.2. LAPAROSCOPY

Young Coolie women have become extremely aware of problems related to early marriage and early/multiple children bearing. Most are opting for smaller families with 2 children and many for just 1 child, even if it is a girl.

For the past year, the World Bank sponsored Family Planning Programme in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has been promoting laparoscopy. Each woman who undergoes laparoscopy is given a compensation of Rs 500. The government doctor who helps with our annual health children's check-up has arranged for our women to avail this facility.

4 camps are held every month and 6-8 women are sent every week. Gangs of young mothers, babies and attendants camping overnight at our campus has become a regular sight.

After their operations, patients are kept back overnight for follow up treatment. Each woman is given a course of antibiotics, pain killers and vitamin C the next morning, and arrangements made to send them home. During this reporting period, 238 young Coolie women have undergone laparoscopy, 21 of them after a single child!<sup>4</sup>

Taluk	No. of women who underwent Laparoscopy	Operated after a single child	
Bagepalli	100	6	6%
Chickballapur	43	2	5%
Chintamani	42	10	24%
Siddalaghatta	43	-	-
Gudibanda	10	3	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9%</b>

### C.3.3. EYE CAMPS

Village CSUs requested that Eye Camps be held for the aged. A government Ophthalmologist and his team conducted 3 camps during this reporting period. 807 visually impaired children

<sup>4</sup> Action für den Coolie Sangha, a small community support group that we set up in Switzerland, has been mobilising funds for this purpose.

and senior citizens were examined. 102 cataract operations conducted, 228 pairs of spectacles supplied, and free medication was given for minor infections.

Taluk	No. of Camps	Patients	Cataract Operations	Spectacles Supplied
Bagepalli	1	245	37	68
Chintamani	1	325	44	144
Gudibanda	1	237	21	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>228</b>

## D. COOLIE CHILDREN HAVE SECURE FUTURE OF THEIR CHOICE

### D.1. Gender Analysis

Year after year, children in Middle and High School classes are given scholarship benefits from their respective Sangha Funds.<sup>5</sup> This time round, the Coolie Sangha decided to streamline the operation with authentic data.

They re-surveyed Member families and removed records of children of distant relatives and not-in-village children whose names had been included in the database by influential CSU Members merely to grab benefits. This resulted in a big drop of 4,798 children, mostly from Primary and Middle School.

In spite of this trimming down, the corrected data shows that 73% of school age children between the ages of 6-15 years are in school (*an increase of 3% from 8 months back*). This is because fictional child names have been removed from both, family records as well as child master.

#### Gender Analysis of Coolie Children in School

	Children		Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle Castes	Upper Castes
Primary School	6,409	43%	50%	50%	60%	17%	23%
Middle School	3,534	23%	53%	47%	60%	17%	23%
High School	4,347	29%	57%	43%	55%	18%	27%
PUC	667	4%	67%	33%	49%	15%	37%
Degree	52	0%	67%	33%	35%	15%	50%
Diploma	2	0%	100%	0%	60%	0%	50%
Non Formal Education	29	0%	52%	48%	52%	3%	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,042</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>

### D.2. Scholarship Benefits

Rs 1,644,473 was spent from Icco & EED consortium funds to give scholarship benefits to 7,881 Middle and High School children and 721 youth attending college. Mahila Meeting used their discretion to determine how much each child would need to supplement what parents cannot afford. These amounts were distributed in the respective villages by our Accounts Staff.

<sup>5</sup> Primary school children are given free books and clothes from the government and the Mahila Meetings play a big role in ensuring rent-free delivery.

But funds were not enough. Another Rs 680,030 had to be spent by the village CSUs from out of their Sangha Funds. Moreover, the CSU appointed *Balakendra* Teachers had to be paid a stipend of at least Rs 200 per month. The Mahila Meetings have spent, during this reporting period, a sum of Rs 1.11 million from out of their Sangha Funds on the education of their children.

<b>Sangha Funds Spent On Coolie Children:</b>	<b>1 April to 30 November 2003</b>	
○ Stipends for CSU appointed <i>Balakendra</i> Teachers	405,997	37%
○ Scholarship for school going children	680,030	61%
○ Maintenance of <i>Balakendra</i> buildings	26,267	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,112,294</b>	<b>100%</b>

### D.3. *Balakendra* Teachers

CSU appointed/paid *Balakendras* Teachers did a Herculean job in collecting marks cards, updating the database and filtering out non students. While they did not get to be too popular with everyone, they did earn an organisational credibility and respect in the process. The emergence of a brand new cadre within the Coolie Sangha is a visible impact of appointing young and educated girls, from the membership of their respective village CSUs, as *Balakendra* Teachers.

There are a total of 305 such *Balakendra* Teachers, 80% of whom attend a 2 day training every month. Most have been around for the best part of a year. About 90% of those who regularly attend our training sessions are effective in conducting supplementary classes in their villages.

They use the same Teacher's Guide and methodology as in SCNZ supported villages. They too are provided with Teacher's Kits to enable them to effectively participate in training sessions. *Balakendra* Teachers are taught to make uncomplicated teaching aids and charts. The lack of library books, teaching aids and sports materials is felt, but has not diminished their enthusiasm. In fact, they have become quite creative, and share ingenuity during the training sessions. Simple indoor and outdoor games are taught without the use of expensive sports material or gadgets.

Mahila Trainers, who double as Case Workers, attend monthly training sessions with their respective *Balakendra* Teachers. They do a commendable job in supporting the *Balakendra* Teachers, checking performance and reporting in the Mahila Meetings. It is almost a year since many *Balakendras* started and Teacher turnover has been minimal, in spite of subtle attempts at male interference.

### D.4. Results of 7<sup>th</sup> Std and 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Board Exams

#### D.4.1. VII STD. RESULTS

Of 1,940 children who appeared for their VII Std. board exams, 1,711 (88%) passed. 106 children failed, 115 dropped out and we could not get the results of 8 children. These were astounding Results for a caste-class of children who rarely went beyond middle school in their education.

Boys and girls have an identical pass rate of 88% in VII Std. and there is hardly any difference in the sex ratio either. While 905 girls appeared for their VII Std. board exams, the number of boys was 1,035.

#### D.4.2.X STD. (SCHOOL FINAL) RESULTS

905 children took up their X Std. exams and 501 (55%) passed. 327 children (35%) failed their school finals. 69 (8%) dropped out and there were no results for 8 children.

In the X Std. school final exams, girls had a slightly better pass rate at 56% when compared to boys at 55%. Unlike in the mid school board exams, there is a huge disparity in the sex ratio. Only 302 girls wrote their school final exams, while the number of boys was 603. This highlights the fact that most girls do not cross the puberty/end-of-middle-school barrier. We just cannot afford to slacken our positive discrimination towards the girl child for many years to come.

Once again we can take consolation in the fact that these are satisfactory Results for the Coolie caste-class. Also in the fact that our performance is higher than the Kolar district pass average of 41%. But we are still unhappy. This is one of the reasons why the Coolie Sangha initiated a deep study on their self-efforts with children, and invited [mcas](#) to give a business opinion.

Most children failed in math and science. The pattern of science question paper (not content) changed without prior notice. Children who had prepared themselves only from the exam point of view, without proper grounding in the subject itself, floundered. There was a reason for this. Many government High Schools had no Science and Math teachers. Temporarily recruited Teachers were arbitrarily removed by the government in the middle of school year and no replacements were made. Headmasters had a tough time to finish portions.

#### D.5. Child Care Issues

##### D.5.1. CD&S SUMMER AGENDA '03

In the just completed CD&S Summer Agenda '03, a total of 817 child related Demands were identified. 610 of them were successfully solved, giving a healthy Result of 75%.

All 15,042 children were checked-up in their respective villages by medical practitioners. Prescriptions were given on the spot and *Balakendra* Teachers/VHWs dispensed these medicines. As a follow up, a special health camp was conducted for 188 children who had been diagnosed with slightly more serious issues.

##### D.5.2. CD&S MONSOON AGENDA '03

In the presently being implemented CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03 another 919 Demands have been recorded. As many as 426 Demands (47%) pertain to youth related activities.

##### Child Care – Extract from the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03

CATEGORY (Life Process Description)	CUSTOMER DEMANDS	QTY
<b>CHILD REARING</b> (Neglected Childhood & Perfunctory Schooling to Cared for Childhood)	Admit 5 youth in College/Diploma; arrange skill training for 247 youth; arrange jobs for 85 youth; send 89 youth for computer training Start 8 new Balakendras with Sangha Funds; repair and electrify 12 Balakendra buildings; buy 26 plots of land to someday construct Balakendra buildings Solve 10 Anganwadi problems; apply for 22 new Anganwadis; follow up on 3 Anganwadi applications Solve 16 Govt Teacher problems; get School Bus Passes for 3 children; change the timings/routes of 4 buses Re-admit 1 dropped-out child; collect food grains for 202 hungry children; give 104 children clothes; apply for 11 Child Disability pensions; care for 8 orphans; care for 2 blind children; regularize an LIC Savings Scheme for 18 children; arrange special tuitions for 35 children	<b>911</b>

## D.6. Skill Training & Job Placement

School finished youth in the 18-20 age group wanted to learn skills and get jobs. Parents too were of the view that their children should find jobs and earn a regular income, rather than stagnate in the rural economy. Multipurpose Training Institute is an NGO based in Bangalore, working with single women. We explained our need and they agreed to impart skills in garment making and place trained youth in factory jobs.

Rs 1,500 was fixed as training fee, board and lodge for a month long in-house training. After a lot of CSU level discussions, parents were asked to contribute Rs 500 while ADATS would find the remaining Rs 1,000 per trainee from non-Consortium sources<sup>6</sup>. We sent the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of 25 youth from Siddalaghatta taluk in June 2003.

Thus far 121 youth from the different taluks have been trained in skills needed by the garment industry in Bangalore. Except for 24 youth who either did not fare well in the interviews or have attained low grades in the training, the rest have all been placed in factory jobs in and around Bangalore. 2 of them have bought sewing machines and started tailoring shops in their villages. Field Workers help the job placed youth find accommodation and with settling down problems for the first month, till they get their salaries.

ADATS considers this effort a success only if the employed youth retain their jobs for more than 3 months. 71 Trainees from the first 3 batches have settled well with salaries ranging between Rs 2,500 and Rs 3,000 per month.

## D.7. Computer Training

A new activity has been started from May 2003 to familiarise Coolie children with computer usage. The ADATS Training Centre was refurbishing to set up a sophisticated Computer Training facility. SCNZ financed this activity with over Rs 1 million. Buildings were repaired, generator room built and a second-hand diesel genset installed, re-electrification done, telephone line obtained, network cabling installed, special furniture designed and fabricated, etc.

After much research and on the advice of IT professionals, we opted for a Server/Thin Client environment. A state-of-the-art IBM<sup>®</sup> file and print Server was bought to support 20 VXL<sup>®</sup> Thin Clients. A Microsoft<sup>®</sup> partner installed a free copy of Windows.Net<sup>®</sup> (*subsequently upgraded to Windows Server 2003<sup>®</sup> o/s with 20 Client Access Licenses*) and a terminal server installation of MS Office XP<sup>®</sup>. In this way we were able to simulate a PC-identical environment for children to learn contemporary skills. 2 residential IT Instructors were appointed and our Network Administrator took personal interest till the new staff settled in.

Young girls and boys who have finished their schooling are invited to attend a month long in-house course where they will be exposed to the computer environment, Kannada and English word processing, calculating on a spread sheet, data management on the ADATS/Coolie Sangha Intranet, email usage, website surfing, etc.

A total of 182 children attended 5 month-long batches. Of them, 163 (*68 boys and 95 girls*) successfully completed the course. *Balakendra* Teachers, many of whom schooled through CSU efforts, are especially encouraged to attend. This is the reason why there are more girls than boys.

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<sup>6</sup> Once again supported with Action für den Coolie Sangha funds.

Batch	Start Date	End Date	Taluk	Attended	Course Completed		Total Trained	
					Boys	Girls		
1 <sup>st</sup>	01 May 03	30 May 03	Gudibanda	38	12	24	36	95%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	05 Jun 03	18 Jul 03	Chintamani	33	16	16	32	97%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	21 Jul 03	20 Aug 03	Bagepalli	37	16	20	36	97%
4 <sup>th</sup>	27 Aug 03	28 Sep 03	Gudibanda & Bagepalli	39	13	18	31	79%
5 <sup>th</sup>	06 Oct 03	06 Nov 03	Chintamani	35	11	17	28	80%
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>182</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>90%</b>

The biggest problem we face is that the children have never used any electrical or electronic gadget. Not a single child has ever before sat in front of a typewriter. We approached private companies to contribute old typewriters and disused keyboards. When bombarded in the village *Balakendras*, children can play with them and practice typing their “qwerty”. Another problem is that children have a very poor grasp of English. We still have to apply our minds to the problem, but are confident of getting there.

In spite of these, even the very first batch was productive, with a high level of learning/absorbing. Overall results are 90% and this is no mean achievement. Teaching methodology, course content and time management has improved with each subsequent batch. The very last batch was able to put in 13-14 hours of theory and lab work every single day!

Computer learning is excitingly mixed with a Summer Camp atmosphere where girls are encouraged to play cricket, boys to wash clothes, tidy dorms and sweep the campus, together to sing and dance around bonfires, tend to the garden, and everyone to learn table manners! The emphasis is on establishing a gender-free socialisation where children relate to each other without sexist and caste inhibitions.

- The July-August batch from Bagepalli had young people who were strong on politics. They succeeded in indoctrinating our newly recruited IT Instructors on the principles and ideology of a caste-free and woman-friendly Coolie Sangha!

ADATS is careful to communicate that this is not a job-oriented Skills Training programme. So much so that we do not even issue certificates at the end of the training. Children who attend our month long session are encouraged to join up with accredited training institutes in their respective taluks and get a formal qualification. Each and every village, in all 5 taluks, know fully well that familiarisation with computers is a Life Skill that young people cannot do without. Yet there is an insatiable demand for the new activity and we are booked 2 years in advance!

It has been a memorable experience for each batch of 33-39 children. The last days are inevitably emotional. This could well be the seed for a more structured and meaningful ADATS/Coolie Sangha involvement with Coolie youth.

#### D.8. Studies to Enhance a Child Focus

2 excellent studies were undertaken during this reporting period. They have contributed to increasing our awareness on child issues and enhancing a child focus in ADATS and the Coolie Sangha.



### D.8.1. ANITA RAVISHANKAR EVALUATION

An evaluation of the SCNZ programme was undertaken by Dr. Anita Ravishankar in July and August 2003. The focus remained on Coolie children and youth, benefiting the whole of ADATS and the Coolie Sangha.

This evaluation report is even now being read and discussed in all 5 taluks (*i.e. not just in SCNZ supported Gudibanda taluk*) through special CSU Meetings. Feedback is monitored in our weekly Situation Meetings and conceptual clarity provided to Field Staff. Existing child rearing and child socialisation practices are unsparingly examined in each and every village. These discussions will, over time, lead to the articulation of a responsible and holistic Coolie Sangha Children's Policy.

This is one of the better studies carried out in recent years. Dr. Ravishankar quickly understood that our Staff and functionaries needed a theoretical framework within which to place their work with children. She did not stop with field investigations and a to-the-point report that merely answered questions raised in the ToR. Instead she took great pains to share her reading of the overall situation and present deep reflections and complicated ideas through clear and pertinent essays.

Concepts like child rearing practices, child socialisation, academic environment, primary and secondary groups, gender-specific and ascribed roles, caste proscription, child in family, individuality, social capital, dominant and non-dominant cultural capital, oppositional culture, child focus, parenting technology, life skill education, *et al* were not altogether alien to some among us. But they did tend to float about as isolated and lofty ideas. They needed to be contextualised. Anita Ravishankar threaded them all together within the background of our own experience and converted these into an applicable theory. In this way she has made a valuable and lasting contribution to ADATS and the Coolie Sangha.

Please download the full report at <http://www.adats.com/studies/studies/books/0821>

### D.8.2. MURRAY CULSHAW'S BUSINESS ADVICE

In early 2003 ADATS initiated a Strategic Planning exercise to review the self-financed and own-efforts of the Coolie Sangha to school their children in nearly 500 mature village CSUs. Through this exercise we wanted to assess what more needed to be done to bring about a greater Child Focus. By mid year we realised the need for an outside opinion and invited Murray Culshaw Advisory Service (**mcas**) to give us a "business advice" to further this strategic planning exercise.

Murray Culshaw and Priya Anand assessed the potential and capability of the Coolie Sangha's own efforts in the Icco-EED Consortium villages, and gave recommendations on how these self efforts can be optimised and sustained to enhance the existing children's programme and provide new directions to increase its efficiency.

The study made a very positive finding on the CSU run Children's Programme:

*"Most people would give an arm and a leg to achieve what ADATS and the Sangha have achieved in the last two decades. Now its a question of deciding where to go from here."*

and concluded with a blunt presentation of the challenge posed and potential for improvement:

*"The transition from a student to being a productive individual in the community is not easy and enabling this is a challenge to any organisation in the field of education. ADATS and the Sangha framework provides a fascinating opportunity to examine the 'transition' phase with fresh energy and insights. Even partial success in this venture would add real value and meaning to the future of the coolie community. Such an ini-*



*tiative is therefore well worth supporting as it would add substantial value to the lives of Coolie children and the Coolie Sangha. The experience could be of real value to the wider development community faced with this 'transition' in so many societies."*

**mcas** made 13 concrete recommendations to the Coolie Sangha under 3 broad categories of enhancing the schooling and education programme, introducing a post schooling programme, and enhancing the effectiveness and relevancy of the Sangha.

The Coolie Sangha is now in the process of finding separate funding for an enhanced Children's Programme that goes beyond merely bundling children off to school.

This study, as also Anita Ravishankar's evaluation, has forced ADATS and the Coolie Sangha to reflect on the problems of Coolie Youth – a segment of our target population that we have hitherto given scant attention to.

Please download the full report at <http://www.adats.com/studies/studies/books/0822>

## E. SURVIVAL CAPACITY OF MEMBER COOLIE FAMILIES ESTABLISHED

### E.1. Status of the CCFs

There was much CCF activity in the villages during the past 8 months with a notable improvement in performance.

- 4,152 loans amounting to Rs 7.9 million were given out in 236 village CCFs.
- 1,253 instalments worth Rs 1.06 million were repaid in 267 village CCFs.

As a result, the amount of good loans has dramatically increased.

#### Status of the CCFs (as on 30 November 2003)

Total CCF Capital		59,448,717	100%
Total of Good Loans		23,448,979	39%
Total of Overdue		18,344,231	31%
1 to 6 Months Late	744,926		4%
7 to 12 Months Late	520,972		3%
Over 1 Year Late	17,078,333		93%
Bad Debts		62,900	
Bank Balances		17,678,000	30%

### E.2. CCF Overdue

The overall Overdue position has not changed much. But the proportion of not-so-serious Overdue (*less than 6 months old*) and serious Overdue (*more than 1 year old*) has remained more or less constant. This shows that while there has been considerable repayment of loan instalments, fresh repayment rates are still being defaulted upon.

The reason for this is that while a campaign-type effort to clear older Overdues has been fairly successful, a fiscal discipline has not yet been internalised in individual Member families, with borrowers remembering their due dates and repaying on agreed dates. However, we do not wish to underestimate the grit and determination with which CCF Overdues have been cleared, that too in a drought year.

- CCF rules block an entire village from borrowing if it's total Overdue crosses Rs 10,000. Just before Crop Loans were released in June 2003, there was a mad scramble by each and every village to bring their CCF Overdues within that limit and make their Members eligible for fresh loans.

Ramachandrappa, our Mitemari Field Worker, refused to budge,  
*“The Rule is meant to accommodate those few persons who may have genuine reasons for not repaying on time. I will not permit you to make a mockery of it by repaying just enough to become eligible. No Crop Loans will be released till all the deliberate default is cleared!”*

His villages revolted! But ADATS supported the Field Worker, stating that we could not fault his logic. CCF Performance in his 34 functioning villages drastically improved with a record repayment of Rs 0.2 million!

### E.3. CCF Utilisation

There has been a healthy increase in lending/borrowing during the past 8 months, mainly due to Rs 7.88 million worth of Crop Loans given out in the month of June 2003.

#### CCF Utilisation Pattern (as on 30 November 2003)

Purpose	Amount Borrowed			No of Loans		
	31 March '03	This Report		31 March '03	This Report	
Crop Loans	37,145,164	<b>45,027,454</b>	<b>32%</b>	25,040	<b>29,187</b>	<b>56%</b>
Agriculture	6,229,386	<b>6,246,386</b>	<b>4%</b>	1,849	<b>1,854</b>	<b>4%</b>
Cattle	30,480,766	<b>30,583,816</b>	<b>22%</b>	10,441	<b>10,478</b>	<b>20%</b>
Trade & Entrepreneurship	57,211,473	<b>57,384,423</b>	<b>41%</b>	8,390	<b>8,455</b>	<b>16%</b>
Consumption & others	1,153,991	<b>1,180,991</b>	<b>1%</b>	1,912	<b>1,917</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,220,780</b>	<b>140,423,070</b>		<b>47,632</b>	<b>51,891</b>	

### E.4. CCF Performance

Our computer software, which assesses the performance of each individual village CCF on a day-to-day and transaction-by-transaction basis, is very sensitive to changes in fiscal behaviour and makes ambitious performance demands.

Overall CCF performance is now rated at 29% (*up from 24% in 31 March 2003*) with a potential to rise to 34% (*up from 27% in 31 March 2003*). 31% of the village CCFs now qualify for an Excellent/Very Good rating (*up from 20% on 31 March 2003*).

#### CCF Performance (30 November 2003)

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>94 village CCFs (70)</b>	<b>15% (10%)</b>
<b>Very Good</b>	<b>110 village CCFs (76)</b>	<b>16% (10%)</b>
<b>Good</b>	<b>212 village CCFs (164)</b>	<b>44% (23%)</b>
<b>Not Good</b>	<b>376 village CCFs (416)</b>	<b>22% (57%)</b>

Even by conventional non-banking standards, a slight improvement in CCF Performance can be seen. However, the Average Borrowing figure has dropped slightly because of massive Crop Loans that were given out to 4,147 borrowers.

**CCF Performance (as on 30 November 2003)**

Rotation of Capital		2.36 %
Number of Loans		51,891
Average Borrowing		Rs 2,706
Repayment Rate	$100 - (\text{Overdue} + \text{Bad Debts} / \text{Cumulative Loans} \times 100)$	86.94 %
Capital at Risk	$\text{Overdue} / \text{Capital}$	31 %

**E.5. Quality of the Loan Portfolio**

As predicted 8 months back, there has been a reduction in the Exposed Portfolio Rate of functioning village CSUs, which now stands at 37% (*down from 46% in 31 March 2003*). Similarly the Delinquency Rate of functioning villages has also dropped to 34% (*down from 44% in 31 March 2003*). These can be directly attributed to a better functioning of the village CSUs with the repayment of outstanding overdue loans and also to the giving out of substantial crop loans. Recovery Rate in functioning villages stays unchanged at 87%.

This has bettered the overall figures also, but a real improvement in the fiscal situation will take place only when the cancelled village CCFs start re-functioning.

**Quality of Loan Portfolio (as on 30 November 2003)**

	Functioning Villages	Cancelled Villages	Overall
<b>Exposed Portfolio Rate</b> (outstanding balance of contaminated loans / total outstanding; ideal = 15%)	<b>37%</b> (46%)	<b>63%</b> (63%)	<b>46%</b> (52%)
<b>Delinquency Rate</b> (total overdue / total outstanding; ideal = 15%)	<b>34%</b> (44%)	<b>63%</b> (62%)	<b>44%</b> (51%)
<b>Recovery Rate</b> (repayments made to date / repayments that had to be made to date; ideal = 90%)	<b>87%</b> (87%)	<b>78%</b> (78%)	<b>84%</b> (84%)

(previous report figures in parenthesis)

**E.6. Supporting Petty Enterprises****E.6.1. CD&S SUMMER AGENDA '03**

Of 393 Demands identified in the just completed CD&S Summer Agenda '03, 279 (71%) were successfully resolved. At the time of closing this Agenda in July 2003, no action was taken on 36 Demands (9%), and 65 (5%) were shown as "Under Action".

By our own standards, these are very good Results. They go to show that, in spite of a severe drought gripping the 5 taluks, Member Coolie families have not lost hope. They have faith to carry out alternative non-cultivation based businesses and improve themselves. The credit for preventing defeatism has to go entirely to the optimism of hard working Coolie Sangha functionaries.

**E.6.2. CD&S MONSOON AGENDA '03**

The presently being implemented CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03 identified a total of 230 Demands relating to business opportunities.

- 155 Demands (67%) are for moral and physical (*non-monetary*) support from their respective village CSUs to start/restart businesses.
- Another 26 Demands (11%) are for CCF assistance, and 19 for bank loans.

**Business Opportunities – Extract from the CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03**

<b>CATEGORY</b> <i>(Life Process Description)</i>	<b>CUSTOMER DEMANDS</b>	<b>QTY</b>
<b>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES</b> <i>(Precarious single income sources to Diversified Incomes from many activities)</i>	Start 47 new cattle trade businesses; 9 new cattle rearing efforts; 45 new petty trades; 41 new petty shops; 5 new poultries; and 8 new <i>Chandrinka</i> business with own funds (i.e. not CCF Loans) Give CCF loans to expand 4 cattle rearing enterprise; 6 cattle trades; 7 petty trades; 7 petty shops; and 2 <i>Chandrinka</i> businesses Clear CCF Overdue in 30 villages; apply for 19 bank loans;	<b>230</b>

**F. SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE PRACTICES SET IN PLACE**

After 3 continuous years of drought there was an understandable fear as to whether dry land cultivation was viable any longer. We placated fears by saying that drought could not be an ever lasting phenomenon, and that we did have the resources to make good and responsible preparations to face erratic and spatial rainfall.

**F.1. S&WC Plans & Utilisation**

In February 2003, DLDP Plans worth Rs 14.87 million were given out to 364 village CSUs for Member Coolie families to descend and work on a total of 10,771 landholdings.

DLDP works dominated everyone's lives for the next 5 months. 1 adult from each Member family went to work on fellow Members' holdings. Overworked Field Workers and Mahila Trainers visited 3-4 work spots every afternoon, after attending Cluster Meets. Late every evening, on returning to the office, they recorded the day's observations in our intranet. This monitored information was digitally transferred to Accounts Staff. When 8-10 payments accrued for a particular village, Accounts Staff went to the fields to verify the monitored information and directly make wage payments to individual Member Coolies. Only those who had actually worked in the work gangs received moneys.

Happenings in DLDP works dominated the agenda and attention of CSU and Mahila Meetings also. There were cases of families playing truant and sending a youth or elderly person to work. Otherwise it was an odd case of a work gang that found the sun too hot and didn't do justice to allotted resources. Squabbles had to be sorted and fights resolved. Learning had to be gleaned and policy adjusted.

Many Mahila Meetings found that the sex composition of work gangs was heavily tilted against women. In a work gang of 25-30 persons, there would hardly be 5 men. Finally Coolie women declared that if men folk had other important business to attend, they may as well relinquish their membership in the village CSUs as well.

ADATS took up this matter very seriously. We clearly saw it as a cruel indicator of the feminisation of poverty and increasing the workload of women. After a round of strong objections, the situation improved a little bit. But we cannot claim that matters are just or healthy.

The fact of the matter is that there were far more women in DLDP work gangs than men. Some of these truant husbands went behind political touts and minor village leaders to make a little something. Others found it more lucrative to seek labour employment like the loading of sand lorries which paid far more than the meagre DLDP wages.<sup>7</sup> But the vast majority

<sup>7</sup> DLDP wages are deliberately kept low at Rs 15 per day in order to retain voluntarism and the spirit of self-help. Civil contractors, who undertake various relief/maintenance works in the summer months pay Rs 45-60, while the odd and occasional agriculture work fetches Rs 25-35.

were simply lazy. They lounged around in shady spots, doing absolutely nothing, and waited for their wives/daughters to bring home the bacon.

But when it came to showing off DLDP works to visitors, or even when conducting annual reviews, it was men who tended to do all the talking. This was something that ADATS came down heavily upon.

A total 8,212 works were completed on as many landholdings, and Rs 10.6 million was paid out as wages in the 5 month period February to June 2003.

- Only Rs 6.8 million (64%) was spent from the Icco & EED Consortium budget.
- The balance of Rs 3.8 million (36%) was paid out from the VASS/SCNZ budget.

Utilisation was very high in Chintamani and Bagepalli, and low in Chickballapur and Gudibanda taluks.

#### DLDP Plans & Utilisation – 2003

Taluk	Villages	Works	Allotment	Works Completed		
Bagepalli	132	4,299	6,372,240	3,422	4,621,440	80%
Chickballapur	48	1,374	1,862,055	903	1,101,075	66%
Chintamani	103	2,636	3,526,815	2,135	2,730,615	81%
Siddalaghatta	49	1,638	2,163,045	1,205	1,509,510	74%
Gudibanda	32	824	949,155	547	633,300	66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>10,771</b>	<b>14,873,310</b>	<b>8,212</b>	<b>10,595,940</b>	<b>71%</b>

## F.2. S&WC Works Carried out

#### DLDP Works carried out in 2003

Work Description	Number of Works	Quantity	Units
Built New Contour Bunds	4,464	327,550	metres
Strengthened Existing Bunds	345	26,850	metres
Built Field Bunds	1,238	68,773	metres
Cleared Shrubs & Boulders	1,007	2,948	acres
Checked Ravine & Gully	248	1,323	
Built Retention Wall (Kanji)	559	34,958	metres
Dug Diversion Channel	186	13,122	metres
Built Cattle Wall	83	5,268	metres
Built Path/Road	6	520	metres
Deepened Open Well	47	47	
Dug Farm Pond	10	10	
Wasted Work	19	21	acres

## F.3. Agriculture Issues

### F.3.1. CD&S SUMMER AGENDA '03

Of 821 Demands identified in the just completed CD&S Summer Agenda '03, only 192 (23%) were successfully resolved. At the time of closing this Agenda in July 2003, no action was taken on a very high 398 Demands (48%), and an equally high 222 (27%) were shown as "Under Action".

This clearly shows that, contrary to everyone's expectation, the drought is not yet over. Rains once again failed in many belts where there is not even grass or shrub cover on the fields. Even in regions that did receive some rainfall, the irrigation tanks are empty. This means that there will be no water or fodder for small livestock even in 2004.

### F.3.2. CD&S MONSOON AGENDA '03

495 Demands have been identified under the presently being implemented CD&S Monsoon Agenda '03.

- 98 of them are still fairly ambitious in the sense that they presume there will be sufficient rains to implement lofty goals like planting tamarind and mango saplings on dry lands, etc.
- 3 issues relate to creating a physical infrastructure and sending for farmer training
- There are 394 land issues which are, once again, going to be very difficult to solve in the present socio-political climate of apathy and corruption.

<b>CATEGORY</b> <i>(Life Process Description)</i>	<b>CUSTOMER DEMANDS</b>	<b>QTY</b>
<b>CULTIVATION</b> <i>(Poor Crops &amp; Barren Lands to Good Crops &amp; Food Security)</i>	43 families to plant tamarind/mango saplings on their fields; insure 36 cattle; develop 2 kitchen gardens; get subsidies from government for 5 families; collect and give seeds for 12 families Make 1 road to agricultural fields; send 2 farmers for training Get 200 Darkasth/Saguvali Chitti and follow up on 89 previous applications; get 105 land title deeds	<b>495</b>

### F.4. Land Survey

The established practice in Coolie Sangha building is that as soon as a Coolie family joins the village CSU, all their landholdings<sup>8</sup> are immediately surveyed 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 carried out, and an estimate of the number of years of further work needed.

As and when DLDP works are implemented on particular holdings, the number of years of work done is increased by 1, and the number of years needed is reduced by 1. When the crops are on the fields and initial hassles over, the re-worked data is taken to the village where all the Members together visit each field to verify that the information is correct.

Following this established practice, Cluster functionaries undertook a re-survey of landholdings in September and October 2003. We did suspect that the land data collected many years back could be wrong with many families having neglected to give accurate details. But a comparison with the previous data shows far more variance than we expected.

This year's land survey had an additional outcome. ADATS Field Staff and Coolie Sangha functionaries decided to visit ALL Coolie fields, including those of 7,560 Cancelled Members in 495 functioning village CSUs plus 9,512 Cancelled families in 340 dropped out CSUs. The purpose was to get an accurate account of exactly how much DLDP works were carried out over the past 16 years.

But visiting all the holdings of thousands of Cancelled Members acted as an olive branch. In many dropped out CSUs, our Field Workers spent more time in hurriedly convened village meetings than on the fields! It gave them an opportunity to discuss why Member families had

<sup>8</sup> A Member family owning 2.5 acres, for example, could well have 3 different holdings.



dropped out in the first place, and what their present situation was. Whether this will result in any appreciable come-back of prodigals will be known only in December/January.

#### F.4.1. PATTERN OF LAND HOLDING

The re-survey shows that landlessness is slightly less than we had originally thought. As for the remaining categories, changes have been fairly marginal.

##### Pattern of Land Holding

PREVIOUS DATA		PATTERN OF LAND HOLDING	PRESENT DATA	
Families	Percent		Families	Percent
1,885	12%	Landless Members	1,454	9%
1,088	7%	0.1 to 1 acre	954	6%
3,328	21%	1.1 to 2 acres	3,324	21%
3,171	20%	2.1 to 3 acres	3,273	21%
2,470	16%	3.1 to 4 acres	2,540	16%
1,501	9%	4.1 to 5 acres	1,670	11%
2,361	15%	Over 5 acres	2,589	16%
<b>15,804</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>15,804</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### F.4.2. DLDP WORK DONE

- Previous data had shown that we had done Rs 31.2 million worth of S&WC works on 27,565 acres of Coolie land.
- But the corrected data now shows a much increased Rs 65.99 million worth of works on 58,232 acres.

This would be approximately correct since cancelled Member families and dropped out village CSUs have now been included.

##### Works Done in all 823 Villages, on lands belonging to Normal & Cancelled Members

PREVIOUS DATA			WORK DONE	PRESENT DATA		
Acres	Percent	Value		Acres	Percent	Value
8,385	30%	3,773,250	1 year work done	17,477	30%	7,864,650
6,711	24%	6,039,900	2 years work done	15,395	26%	13,855,500
5,867	21%	7,920,450	3 years work done	12,367	21%	16,695,450
3,913	14%	7,043,400	4 years work done	7,106	12%	12,790,800
1,825	7%	4,106,250	5 years work done	3,498	6%	7,870,500
816	3%	2,203,200	6 years work done	1,583	3%	4,274,100
47		148,050	7 years work done	607	1%	1,912,050
			8 years work done	171	0%	615,600
			9 years work done	27	0%	109,350
<b>27,565</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Rs 31,234,500</b>		<b>58,232</b>		<b>Rs 65,988,000</b>

#### F.4.3. DLDP WORK NEEDED

- Previous data had shown that an additional Rs 31.66 million worth of S&WC works need to be done on 27,757 acres of Coolie land.
- But the corrected data now shows Rs 50.8 million worth of works need be done on 44,371 acres.

These figures, however, have to be viewed with some healthy scepticism...

- Previous data showed that 48% of Coolie lands were perfectly level and needed no further labour investment.
- But the corrected data shows that only 12% of lands are on par with *Ryot* fields.

Once again, this could be due to greed, or even fear that they will be excluded from benefits if they admit to having obtained good Results!



**Works needed in 537 functioning Villages on lands belonging to Normal Members only**

PREVIOUS DATA			WORK NEEDED	PRESENT DATA		
Acres	Percent	Value		Acres	Percent	Value
25,626	48%	Nil	No work Needed	6,100	12%	
6,885	13%	3,098,250	1 year work Needed	6,996	14%	3,148,200
4,924	9%	4,431,600	2 years work Needed	16,616	33%	14,954,400
12,601	24%	17,011,350	3 years work Needed	12,824	25%	17,312,400
883	2%	1,589,400	4 years work Needed	5,440	11%	9,792,000
2,460	5%	5,535,000	5 years work Needed	2,496	5%	5,616,000
<b>53,382</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Rs 31,665,600</b>		<b>50,471</b>		<b>Rs 50,823,000</b>

**F.5. DLDP Performance**

DLDP ratings are not calculated based solely on S&WC works carried out. Instead, the computer assesses the state of Coolie landholdings by applying algorithms to available land data. A total of 7 variables are examined and the performance of each is measured on a scale of 10. Then varying degrees of weightage is given for each variable.

In the manner, overall DLDP performance is rated at 25%. Only 22% of village CSUs qualify for the Excellent/Very Good rating.

**Dry Land Development Programme Performance (30 November 2003)**

Excellent	63 village CSUs	8%
Very Good	106 village CSUs	14%
Good	187 village CSUs	29%
Not Good	421 village CSUs	25%

**F.6. Participatory Evaluation**

In September 2003, a participatory evaluation was carried out on the Chintamani DLDP. Ajit Mani of Interventions (India) Pvt. Ltd. facilitated this study whereby CSU Representatives and Field Staff themselves made a new Problem Tree, Objective Tree and a retrospective Log Frame to communicate the project logic of the DLDP in their taluk. They identified Goal Indicators, Purpose Indicators, and Outcome Indicators with suggestions to improve Means of Verification.

The study found our Activity Process monitoring to be excellent, but suggested that much more had to be done with regard to Effects Monitoring. To begin with, we need to organize our data in a time-line manner – i.e. our database is designed to capture data on a continual basis and keep it up-to-date “as of today” but not, for example, to reflect how the situation was 1 year back or 2 years back, etc. As a result it was not possible to quantitatively assess Yield increases (*Income Indicator*) and Acreage increases (*Wealth Indicator*).

Their understanding of the DLDP as an important instrument in the empowerment of the Coolie caste-class is very impressive. Linkages to other Coolie Sangha building efforts are clearly elucidated.

Please download the full report at <http://www.adats.com/studies/studies/books/0823>