

Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS) Bagepalli 561 207 6th Effects Monitoring Report

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Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS) Bagepalli 561 207 6th Effects Monitoring Report

Period: 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

6th Consortium Project Numbers: Icco 03-02-679 & EED 20090222 G

“Coolie Sangha Building in Chickballapur District”

THE PROCESS

Background

This is the 6th time that ADATS and the Coolie Sangha conducted such an annual exercise involving thousands of Coolie Sangha functionaries and ordinary CSU Members along with our Staff.

However, the earlier 5 exercises covered the previous 10 year Strategic Plan and LogFrame. This time, we are monitoring the Effects of a new 10 year Strategic Plan that we developed in late 2008 and started implementing from April 2009.

Therefore, while the process has only improved or remained the same, the Objectives/Outcomes (Main Effects) we monitored have changed. So too the Indicators (Sub Effects), with different sets of Primary Data.

Cluster Review Meets

66 of 88 (75%) Cluster Meets participated in this 6th Effects Monitoring exercise. Due to Staff Problems in Chickballapur Taluk and one Area in Chintamani, we could not conduct the annual exercise. A subjective assessment by ADATS Field Staff is that about 55 Cluster Review Meets did a good and thorough job. Moreover, not every Cluster Meet reviewed every single Effect and Sub Effect.

Main Effect	Sub Effects	Primary Data	Cluster Review Meets	Max Data	Recorded
A. Coolie Families fully Access all State Welfare & Transfers	3	28	66	1,848	1,469 (79%)
B. Coolie Women Attain a Person Status within their Families	6	29	66	1,914	1,377 (72%)
C. Sustainable Land Use Practices Adopted	3	5	66	330	62 (19%)
D. Coolie Families Take Advantage of New Economic Opportunities	2	7	66	462	304 (66%)
E. Coolie Children...	4	-	66	-	-
F. Coolie Youth...	2	12	66	792	546 (69%)
G. New Form of Unity that Preserves Member Participation & Concept of Representation Evolved by Coolie Sangha	4	11	66	726	435 (60%)

At each Cluster Review Meet, the elected Cluster Secretary and Women's Committee Member conducted the review. CSU Representatives, Cheque Signatories and Village Health Workers from the 5-6 village CSUs that comprise the Cluster attended. 5-10 longstanding CSU Members from each village also participated. The concerned Field Worker and Mahila Trainer sat with them and supplied OnLine Reports on various programmes.

Unlike the last time in 2008, exclusive time could not be put aside for this 6th Effects Monitoring exercise. Ongoing NREGA works could not be stopped for 2-3 weeks, preparations had to be made for the fast approaching Gram Panchayat elections, and Coolie landholdings had to be surveyed and

cross-checked in preparation for the next Afforestation/Reforestation CDM validation due in July 2010.

Each Cluster conducted an average of 3 Effects Monitoring meetings, but not in a single and uninterrupted stretch like they did in 2008.

Primary & Secondary Data

Each Indicator (Sub Effect) is objectively examined through the gathering of Primary Data.

We refer to information gleaned from these Cluster Review Meet sittings as “Primary Data”. Information that is entered in our online digitized monitoring solution, *InfoNeeds*[®], is called “Secondary Data”. However the purist can rightly argue that both are, in reality, primary data since the latter is collected *as and when a process is recorded*.¹ Yet we make the distinction chiefly in order to triangulate the data.

Activities

Activities are designed to achieve an Objective/Outcome (Main Effect) and do not pertain to a particular Indicator (Sub Effect). Otherwise, the programme would amount to “*managing* the Indicators”.² A Sub Effect (Indicator) is something that happens as a cumulative outcome of various activities. In spite of knowing this at a theoretical level, overworked development programmes do tend to emphasise on activities that immediately result in the showcasing of good and immediate Sub Effects.

Attribution

We need to look into the actual Factors that contributed to the Result – more often than not, these are external causes and influences coupled with programme efforts. It is not easy for overworked Secondary Stakeholders who, quite justifiably, need to pat themselves on their backs and feel good that they have achieved something *all because of their hard work*, to escape subjectivity.

This is why we need to bring in an outsider who has an overall framework, and also a sense of history of the organisation and its efforts, to complete the exercise. Unfortunately, due to lack of time, we could not bring this element of objectivity into this 6th Effects Monitoring exercise.

Reporting Period

We strictly confined the recording of primary and secondary data to the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010. But this has not always been possible when it came to discussions in the Cluster Review Meets. Reflections on the past year were influenced by tumultuous events like Gram Panchayat elections, even if they were technically outside the reporting period.

¹ E.g. Date and amount of loans given out, along with the date and amount of instalments repaid, computed as Repayment Rate or Delinquency Rate, etc. are actually primary data. Similarly, the recording of children passing exams and getting promoted to the next class in school, annual family income declared and renewal of current year membership through the payment of Sangha Tax, etc.

² E.g. “Percentage of Children who Pass Annual Exams” is an acceptable Indicator for a schooling programme. This has to be achieved through regular classes, timely completion of syllabus, attention to weaker children, a good work-play environment, etc. If instead the Indicator were to be managed, then we could have a single activity – Giving the question paper to children a week before exams!”

A. COOLIE FAMILIES FULLY ACCESS ALL STATE WELFARE & TRANSFERS ACTIVITIES

Role Transforming Field Workers & Mahila Trainers as Area Managers

Though every single Staff Member and Coolie Sangha Functionary was involved in the long drawn out process to develop our Strategic plan, we still decided to hold 10 sessions, 2 at each Taluk, for the Staff, and a total of 130 Special Meetings at the Cluster level.

Follow up was strict and unsparing. It was made clear that we had not made a critical appraisal of our performance just in order to produce a well sounding document. ADATS follows a system of performance salaries which reward Results rather than actual Activities. Recognising that the execution of arduous jobs and tasks was vital to kick start implementation of the new Strategic Plan, we abandoned performance salaries during this reporting period. Instead, subjective assessments were made of efforts made by each individual Field Staff and salaries paid accordingly.

Role transformation was not painless.

Coolie Sangha Functionaries

The BCS President, who is also the chief returning officer for all elections in the people's organisation, made his rounds to sit at each Cluster Meet to determine which Representatives needed to be changed in order to increase efficiencies. Village CSU Meetings followed up by choosing persons who would regularly attend Cluster Meets and the monthly Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings, represent their problems and opinions, and report back in the villages.

101 CSU Representatives were re-elected by their village Coolie Sangha Units.

In the first half of the year, 14 Cluster Secretaries were changed simply because they had stayed on for too long.

In the second half, another 9 Cluster Secretaries were re-elected in Bagepalli, Siddalaghatta and Gudibanda Taluks – 7 because they were irregular to CSU Meetings, 1 because he robbed NREGA wage money, and another because he got elected as Taluk Secretary. But not a single one was changed in Chintamani Taluk. This is disappointing because it shows that Member Coolie families have not been strict in monitoring the performance of their elected Cluster Secretaries.

Meetings

CSU & Mahila Meetings

206 CSUs met regularly on a fixed day every week. 239 *in camera* Mahila Meetings were also very regular. These village meetings discussed everything under the sun – personal issues, matters that could be solved by ADATS programmes, government activities, and with their own united action.

But the irregularity of the remaining 278 village CSUs and 245 Mahila Meetings is worrisome. A perusal of their Minutes Books shows perfunctory meetings to meet a procedural requirement.

Cluster Meets

Each Cluster, on the other hand, met for 35 times on average. Based on our 32 years experience, this is an acceptable figure of 67%.

Taluk Executive Committee Meetings

Fortnightly meetings of all the elected Cluster Secretaries and Women's Committee Members, at their respective Taluk headquarters, were held fairly regularly.

Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings

All the elected Functionaries and CSU Representatives met for 2 days every month, on a fixed weekend. Only 5 meetings cancelled. In some Taluks they were jam packed affairs with more than village and Cluster functionaries attending. ADATS Staff, who have to compulsorily attend but not participate, were shredded to pieces for even small mistakes and oversights.

Executive Committee Meetings

The 5 Executive Committees, comprising elected Taluk Secretary, elected Cluster Secretaries and Women's Committee Members at each Taluk, met every fortnight. ADATS Field Staff and either the BCS President or BCS Treasurer were compulsorily present

Income Declaration, Sangha Tax payment & Membership Renewal

14,702 Coolie families from 487 village CSUs declared an average income of Rs 13,723 in December 2009. Of them, 14,505 families from 483 villages paid 2% of their declared income, an average of Rs 275 each.

Change in Family Membership

Mahila Meetings identified 337 Coolie women as Family Managers, and their Membership were altered to these women's names.

Similarly, 206 Coolie Youth took Membership in their names, representing their families in their respective village CSUs. This was done with some sensitivity without offending the sensibilities of older, longstanding members who had given the best part of their lives to building the Coolie Sangha Units. All these youth have completed schooling, but continue to live in their villages without wanting city jobs.

Sangha Funds

849 (78%) village CSUs and 35,222 (80%) Member Coolie families have participated in the Sangha Tax process over the past 16 years. Our digitized monitoring system calculates performance as under:

Performance	CSUs who participated		Functioning Village CSUs	Dropped Villages	Members who paid Tax		Active Members	Inactive Families
Excellent	444	52%	441	3	22,841	65%	13,425	9,416
Very Good	45	5%	35	10	1,738	5%	932	806
Good	41	5%	4	37	1,505	4%	93	1,412
Not Good	368	43%	2	366	9,136	26%	26	9,110

Growth in Sangha Funds has been the lowest ever, at just 4%. This is because huge amounts of monies were spent by the Coolie Sangha on this current programme.

Sources of Income for the current 3 Year Programme (2009-2012)

Icco & EED	Rs 57,303,563	19%
SCNZ	Rs 34,377,000	11%
NZ Govt	Rs 15,879,000	5%
Carbon Investor	Rs 168,085,000	56%
Sangha Funds	Rs 26,311,388	9%
Total	Rs 301,955,950	100%

Due to tardy remittances from SCNZ, Rs 12.68 million was spent from Sangha Funds against a first year budgeted projection of Rs 8.77 million – i.e. 45% over and above. This was because of a fierce determination in the village CSUs that their activities with children would not suffer.

- Rs 5.55 million was collected as Sangha Funds and other Voluntary Contributions by the village CSUs. Another Rs 5.86 million was earned as interest on the Fixed Deposits.
- Rs 1.56 million was spent by the village CSUs on pensions, medical aid, basic medicines for first aid, etc. Another Rs 5.47 million was given out as scholarships for school going children. Rs 1.04 million was spent on salaries and stipends for Coolie Sangha Functionaries. Rs 0.53 million was spent on various administrative expenses of the village CSUs.
- Only Rs 2.81 million could be placed as fresh Fixed Deposits in the names of respective village CSUs who had unspent balance in March 2010.

In spite of these heavy expenditures incurred with the Member Coolie families' own moneys, their decentralised village level corpus now stands at Rs 77.53 million.

Growth in Sangha Fund Balances

	31 Mar 2004	31 Mar 2005	31 Mar 2006	31 Mar 2007	31 Mar 2008	31 Mar 2009	31 Mar 2010
Village Fixed Deposits	36,997,717	42,443,417	42,443,417	54,625,000	61,043,200	61,043,200	63,854,200
Village SB Accounts	6,046,805	6,274,335	12,331,701	7,002,869	6,313,348	11,962,912	11,852,287
Taluk Fixed Deposit	450000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Taluk SB Account	11,216	27,447	41,826	449,004	515,233	889,744	1,377,187
Total	43,505,737	49,195,199	55,266,944	62,526,874	68,321,781	74,345,856	77,533,673
Increase from pre-Year	12%	13%	12%	13%	9%	8%	4%

Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

Fist half year

We finally saw the fruit of a 2 year long struggle to get the district notified under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). A total of 1,595 works were taken up by Member Coolie families in the village CSUs who received an average of 74 days employment and Rs 63.31 million as wages.

Field Staff supported every single Member Coolie get a Job Card with all adults in the family photographed and entered. 3,000 copies of the Gazette Notification, Rules & Regulations were printed and distributed to all the villages. This helped hapless Gram Panchayat officials were at a total loss as to the new rules and procedures that needed to be followed.

Initially, village officials waited for "official works" to be notified. It took a lot of bullying and persuasion before they understood that Work Gangs were free to do works of their choice that they had identified in their Job Applications. When they realised that every single procedural demand of the Coolies was perfectly according to law, they succumbed.

Then came problems during payments. Most GP officials tried to misinterpret the rules and claimed that payments would be made based of quantities. This too led to a lot of struggle before they relented and admitted that EGA Wages were to be paid based on attendance. Even the weak and infirm who didn't do all that much work had to paid the exact same as the strong and able.

The starting of NREGA works was not smooth. Gram Panchayat officials did not relent without a fight. There were a total of 82 major strikes and struggles, each different from the other, to implement our objective of zero tolerance in corruption and leakage.

Village CSUs realised that they were a bit isolated. So Coolie Youth were mobilised to go to neighbouring villages where there were no Coolie Sangha Units, explain the EGA, take digital photographs and force the officials to issue job cards.

Second half year

In the second half of the year, Bagepalli Taluk witnessed 25 major issues at the Gram Panchayat level to expose corruption in the NREGA. For more than 6 months, everything had gone smooth with village CSUs assisting neighbouring villagers, without village CSUs, to make Job Cards. They also educated them on nitty-gritty implementation details.

In the meanwhile, Gram Panchayat officials and elected Members were silently plotting on how they could dip their fingers into the pie. They finally found a way when they found that, after the completion of a labour intensive work, an additional 40% could be spent on making the work permanent. This “material supply” component of NREGA was meant to buy stone slabs to line the sides of ditches and canals dug with sheer manual labour, lay crushed stones on newly built roads, etc.

All of sudden, in late 2009, huge withdrawals started happening under the “material supply” heading. The central computer gave an alarm and State NREGA officials made a spot inspection. When they unearthed daring theft of an unprecedented order, they blocked payments. That’s when the entire scam came to light and spontaneous village level protests erupted.

Eventually, 16 criminal cases were filed against as many Panchayat officials – 12 GP Secretaries and 4 Junior Engineers. As per law, all of them were immediately suspended. They just disappeared. Even with the public assisting the Police in tracing them, and it took months to round them all up and send them to prison. Many Gram Panchayats are without a Secretary to this day. This inconveniences people very much, but nobody minds as long as the guilty are punished.

At Gudibanda Taluk, there were 4 major struggles at the GP level – 2 against unnecessary delays in NREGA wage payments, and 2 against Junior Engineers who purposely monitored works wrongly and paid less than minimum wages.

In Chintamani Taluk, 5 major issues came up, just as in Bagepalli. But, unlike in Bagepalli, 5 GP Secretaries were merely suspended without any criminal cases booked against them.

Siddalaghatta saw 2 struggles against delayed NREGA implementation.

Other Issues & Struggles

163 village level squabbles among Members were settled in the first half of the year.

Village CSUs resolved 51 inter-Coolie squabbles in the next 6 months. These included 19 land issues, 12 complaints that were brought back from police stations, 9 relating to the allocation of house sites, 5 family issues, one relating to common lands, another that arose when cattle grazed onto cropped fields, another relating to a water tap, a misunderstanding between Members when implementing NREGA works, a huge fight between parents and children, and one involving an errant *Anganwadi* teacher.

It is interesting to note that, in the second half of the year, there were hardly any issue of Coolie versus *Ryot* this past year.

Legal Aid & Aid Distress

16 cases of Legal Aid & Aid Distress for land and wage struggles, totalling Rs 144,320 were given out in the first half of the year.

Another Rs 33,102 was given out to 15 Member families as Legal Aid & Aid Distress in the second half. 7 was for health problems that their Sangha Funds couldn't meet, 7 for homes that burnt down in fire accidents, and 1 for a complicated marriage.

Creating Linkages

ADATS continued to give a lead to the Fair Climate Network. 2 CDM Meetings were held during this reporting period, one at the very start of the reporting period and another in July 2009. The latter was to finalise a big deal with Icco wherein they would support the Tech Team for 3 years. After that, we had the visit of the Icco Director and Chairman in August to actually open the FCN Tech Team at Bangalore.

Throughout this year, we had an average of 2 groups of visitors every single week. They included climate change activists from India and abroad, potential carbon investors, scientists and sector specialists, and very many grassroots NGO leaders who wanted more clarity on how to access carbon resources.

Besides, ADATS handheld 19 NGOs who took the plunge to develop CDM Projects.

Rating the Effects/Results

Only one Cluster Review Meet felt that this past year was worse than the previous year insofar as positioning the Coolie Sangha vis-à-vis the State. The overwhelming majority felt they have grown from strength to strength, with some even suggesting it was perfect!

65 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Very Positive	18	28%
Slightly Better than last year	46	71%
Slightly Worse than Last Year	1	2%

A.1. Trend and details of rent-free welfare resources acquisition, Rupee Terms, Taluk-wise

Primary Data

No. of Bank Loans availed by Coolie Families this year	952	Loans
Rupee Value of Bank Loans obtained this year	26,674,000	Rupees
No. of Coolie Families who availed Coop Society Loans this year	180	Loans
Rupee Value of Coop Society Loans this year	3,470,000	Rupees
No. of Coolie Families who availed Other Loans this year	670	Loans
Rupee Value of Other Loans obtained this year	10,663,000	Rupees
No. of Women who availed Stree Shakthi Loans this year	1,230	Loans
Rupee Value of Stree Shakthi Loans obtained this year	10,454,500	Rupees

A.2. Details of poor families brought under welfare umbrella

Primary Data

No. of Families who are now getting Old Age Pensions from Govt (OAP) today	2,043	Families
No of Women who are now getting Widow Pensions from Govt. today	703	Women
No of Persons who are now getting Physically Challenged Pension from Govt.	304	Persons

today		
No. of Families who got Free Houses sanction in the past 1 year	1,140	Houses
No. of Houses that got Free Electricity in the past 1 year	1,124	Houses
No. of Families who now live in Guts & Thatched Houses and genuinely need houses	808	Families

A.3. Faultless Implementation of NREGA Works & PDS

Primary Data

No. of NREGA Works done from April 2009 to March 2010	1,595	Works
Average No. of Days of NREGA Works obtained from April 2009 to March 2010	74	Days
Total NREGA Wages Paid out from April 2009 to March 2010	63,314,431	Rupees
No. of Cases where NREGA Wages were paid after protests, strikes & struggles	314	Cases
No. of Families who do not have NREGA Job Cards today	130	Families

No. of Families who do not have any Ration Cards at all	183	Families
No. of Families who do not have BPL Ration Cards in spite of being poor and eligible	344	Families
No of Cases of protests, strikes & struggles to run the Ration Shops	146	Cases

Total No. of Govt. Works approved from April 2009 to March 2010	1,033	Works
Total Budget Allocated for all these Works	106,641,000	Rupees
Actual Amount Spent on these Works this year	78,269,553	Rupees
No. of Works done Without Corruption	455	Works
No. of Works done with a Little Corruption	321	Works
No. of Works done with a Lot of Corruption	258	Works

Factors that Contributed to this Result

- Obtaining pensions on time depends heavily on the village CSU having a good presence in the Gram Panchayat – i.e. having elected their own GP Members. The reason is that, unlike other once-off sanctions, pensions are something that have to come month after month, for very many years. “Outsiders”, be they benevolent politicians or social workers, tend to “forget” or “get tired” with the relentless follow-up that is needed.
- But for the initial sanction, having one’s own MLAs, MPs and Zilla Panchayat Members does help. Similarly with Bank Loans. Pressure from MLAs is the only thing that will move indifferent Bank Managers to give loans that they rather wouldn’t.
- The above 2 factors are directly tied to a myth of sociopolitical power that the Coolie Sangha is able to project. After all, keeping politicians constantly under a mild threat of withdrawing support works far better than appealing to their good sense.
- But not having such sociopolitical power is not a killer impediment. People’s power also works, albeit not to the same degree, on administrative mechanisms. The “meet the people”

Janaswandana programmes that are held every Saturday in different central villages of each Taluk are effective when people make it a habit to attend and demand.

- The Coolie Sangha does not, in fact, use MLAs and MPs for everything. Struggle and direct action achieve wonders. Good CSU Members elected as Gram Panchayat Members help access various schemes. In Clusters where they are socio-politically active, Coolies are able to check corruption in the execution of government works, even when not a single CSU Member has actually won a GP seat.
- CSU Members, especially Coolie women elected to School Betterment Committees get good information on various facilities from the Education Department. The RTI Act is a powerful tool not just to glean information, but to use as a threat against corrupt officials.

Lessons Learnt

Loans from Financial Institutions

It is good, in itself, to record the number and amount of loans accessed by Member Coolie families and study increases and decreases from previous years. But to get a better understanding of the efficacy and quantum of credit worthiness obtained through Coolie Sangha efforts, we need to look at the figures Taluk-wise.

	Bagepalli	Chintamani	Siddalaghatta	Gudibanda
Member Coolie Families	4,985	2407	2,588	1,469
Percent of Families who availed Bank loans	10%	6%	7%	11%
Average Bank Loan amount	Rs 19,848	Rs 34,028	Rs 37,818	Rs 23,224
Percent of Families who availed Other loans	9%	5%	0%	8%
Average Other Loan amount	Rs 18,436	Rs 10,129	Rs 71,250	Rs 10,427
Percent of Families who availed Coop Society loans	2%	-	3%	1%
Average Coop Society Loan amount	Rs 18,849	-	Rs 19,042	Rs 22,813
Percent of Families who availed Stree Shakthi loans	7%	13%	11%	17%
Average Stree Shakthi Loan amount	Rs 6,547	Rs 8,563	Rs 7,409	Rs 12,641

Where these loans are availed through genuine collective efforts (as different from the individual strife of each borrower), more people benefit even if the average amounts borrowed fall considerably.

- 10% and 11% of Member Coolie families availed bank loans in Bagepalli and Gudibanda Taluks, against 6% and 7% in Chintamani and Siddalaghatta. Moreover, there is a huge difference in the average borrowing with a much higher amount being borrowed by far lesser people in Chintamani and Siddalaghatta.
- The above observation is confirmed when we look at Other Loans. When more people are able to avail loans, the average borrowing falls. When less than a percentage point availed Other Loans in Siddalaghatta, the amount borrowed skyrocketed.
- However there is hardly any difference between Taluk and Taluk when it comes to loans from Cooperative Societies.
- Stree Shakthi loans show a totally different picture. A large chunk of women from Member Coolie families borrowed the highest amount in Gudibanda and the least number of women borrowed the lowest amount in Bagepalli. Chintamani and Siddalaghatta followed in that downward order. The data strongly suggests that when more Stree Shakthi groups are active and lend out to more women, they are able to avail bigger loans.

Corruption

Chintamani Taluk recorded the least number of government works that were of any interest to the Cluster Review Meets. But it is interesting to note that control of corruption was not necessarily related to a wider Taluk level sociopolitical presence. When village CSUs were active on a day to day basis, they were able to ensure that a substantial chunk of allocations was actually spent on public works with less corruption.

	Bagepalli	Chintamani	Siddalaghatta	Gudibanda
No. of Government Works	378	71	265	319
Allocation Actually Spent	73%	61%	66%	81%
Works done Without Corruption	37%	41%	39%	57%
Works done with a Little Corruption	36%	30%	37%	21%
Works done with a Lot of Corruption	27%	21%	25%	24%

B. COOLIE WOMEN ATTAIN A PERSON STATUS WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES

ACTIVITIES

Mahila Meetings

In the first half of the year, 311 villages held quality Mahila Meetings on fixed days every week. These *in camera* meetings of one woman from each Member family discussed a range of issues and planned many a remedial action for practical problems faced by Coolie women.

Regularity dropped to about 244 Mahila Meetings during the second half of the year. The rest of the villages held Mahila Meetings only during need and emergencies. 46 Village Health Workers and Balakendra Teachers were just not capable of holding Mahila meetings.

Their main agenda was the monitoring of biogas units, functioning of government schools, implementation of NREGA works, laws in favour of women, and reproductive health.

52 agricultural lands were transferred to the names of women in this reporting period, and 74 Mahila Meetings implemented their decisions on crop choice in the 2009 cultivation season.

Women's Committee Members

In Bagepalli Taluk alone, 4 Women's Committee Members were replaced – 2 for health reasons, and 2 due to Irresponsible behaviour. 3 other Taluks did not change anyone this year.

42 of them visited Mahila Meetings in their respective Clusters at least once every fortnightly. And they all attended weekly Cluster Meets.

Gudibanda Taluk still has no Women Committee Members.

Women in the Coolie Sangha

5,009 (35%) of Coolie Sangha memberships are in the names of women – i.e. these families have women managing family affairs. Indicators used for this count are control and decision making on finances. But only 2,187 (15%) families are genuinely single women headed – i.e. without any male adult in the household. The difference of about 2,822 families, after discounting an element of tokenism, represents brave women who have taken on family management in spite of having men around.

Trainings

At the start of the year, 8 training sessions were conducted by the Mahila Trainers for Women's Committee Members and Village Health Workers. In the main, these were to use the new health facilities offered by the government under various schemes. Even the procedural details on how to summon the free ambulance service, for example, needed to be clarified.

Some of these sessions were held at ADATS Campuses in the Taluk headquarters. But others were held in the government hospitals, with health officials making public commitments.

Health Activities

Every month, after the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meeting, Village Health Workers are paid their stipend of Rs 500. Mahila Trainers sit with them for a few hours and discuss special needs for the month and medicine kits, varying slightly for each village, are put together. This has become a standard operating practice.

In Bagepalli, for 4 months, Women's Committee Members and VHWs interact with govt hospital staff once a fortnight. Government Doctors even attended a special session of the BCS Meeting where they answered questions and gave their side of the story.

At Chickballapur, to revive the flagging performance of Village Health Workers, a special health skill training was imparted by the staff of CSI Hospital. 75% of the VHWs attended.

A special training was conducted with the help of Government Health Department on how to control diarrhoea and practical tips on maintaining cleanliness to avoid malaria and dengue.

No. of Women who Reported Reproductive Ailments in the Mahila Meetings	941	Reported Ailments
No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments Treated Locally by VHWs	295	Cases
No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments brought to Health Camps by VHWs	477	Cases
No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments taken to City Hospitals after Health Camp	191	Referred Cases

There is a new Government scheme by which any villager can dial "108" to avail the free services of an Ambulance from her villages to the nearest government hospital. CSU Members, and especially the Village Health Workers, were trained on how to use this service effectively. They did so 872 times, but not without scuffles and disagreements with drivers and doctors.

As a result, ADATS vehicles were used only 87 times to provide Ambulance services to CSU Members. 60 times to take referred Patients to specialized hospitals, 15 to haul advanced pregnant women, and 11 to take dead bodies for burial.

The ADATS/Velcan Bagepalli Biogas CDM Project

We constructed 5,485 biogas units for as many Coolie women in 339 villages by selling all the CERs that would be generated in the first 7 years to a Carbon Investor. After that, every single Rupee of carbon revenue would go to the End Users – i.e. the 5,500 women who actually use these biogas units.

This was made abundantly clear to everyone and there is not a man, woman or child in these 5 Taluks who is not fully aware of the legally binding End User Agreements that ADATS has executed to this effect.

Balakendra Teachers continued to monitor Daily Usage, and this was used to calculate emission reductions generated by this CDM Project. Mahila Trainers fed the information into our digitized database which automatically calculated the volume of CERs generated.

Towards the end of this reporting period, final preparations were underway for the 2nd Verification of another 36,000 CERs by the DOE (11,700 CERs were issued after the 1st Verification).

Biogas CDM Project of the BCS

In January 2010, we signed an Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with the FairCarbon-Fund, B.V., a carbon investor company formed by Icco, the Netherlands. Under this ERPA, we forward sold 384,144 CERs that would be generated by 18,000 biogas units in the first 9 years to get finance to build the units.

We started implementing this project from September 2009. 3,416 families were selected for the first 6 month phase. In just 7 months, we built 1,161 units. Another 2,255 were at various stages of construction. Only 30 units were commissioned as on 31 March 2010 and so no CERs were generated. Our total expenditure on this 2nd CDM Project was Rs 16.77 million.

An interesting aspect of this CDM Project is that 69% of the biogas units are for Non-CSU families since we had covered most CSU Members in the 1st CDM Project. Another 5% are for Inactive Members who have not paid Sangha Tax and renewed their membership. However, every single End User has been chosen by a functioning village CSU.

Rating the Effects/Results

65 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Very Positive	4	6%
Slightly Better than last year	61	94%

B.1. Men Share in the Mind Numbing & Repetitive Housework of Women

Primary Data

This is the very first time that we have used this indicator and so it may perhaps be better to look at these figures as a baseline of sorts, to be regularly monitored in subsequent years.

Women functionaries and Coolie Sangha members refused to allow anyone to trivialise the matter. We are more or less certain that, as of today, 13% of men share in the burden/pleasure of house work. This is the number we have to build upon.

No. of Husbands who Cook for at least 2-3 days every week	1,957	Cases
No. of Fathers who get Children ready for School and help with Homework on a daily basis	2,001	Cases
No. of Husbands who help with Cleaning the house, Washing clothes, etc. on a daily basis	1,425	Separations

Total No. of Young & Brave Single Women	852	Single Women
No. of Single Women who were running Successful Businesses Last Year	262	Business Women
No. of Single Women who are still running those Businesses	224	Business Women
No. of Single Women who Stopped running their Businesses	27	Failed Businesses
No. of New Single Women who have Started Businesses This Year	37	New Business

B.2. Women Compensated for Unpaid Domestic Work through Carbon Revenues

Secondary Data

As on 31 March 2010, a total of 65,471 Emission Reductions (against the committed total of 140,000) had already been generated. At the then prevailing rate, the carbon investor had already recovered 87.18% of their investments. Very shortly, they would start making a profit.

Though no money has reached these women, they meticulously monitor daily usage and maintain the units with the full knowledge that, from 2014, they will start receiving carbon revenues.

The second verification of CERs generated by the 5,500 biogas units was undertaken in April 2010, immediately after this reporting period. When this is issued in a couple of months, a total of 11,700 (1st Issuance) plus 36,000 high quality Biogas CERs will have entered the carbon market (ETS).

B.3. Equal Decision Making Role Enjoyed within Families

Primary Data

We have used negative data points to measure powerlessness, bad health and poverty. This was a deliberate decision to point out to the Mahila Meetings that all was not cosy in their environment – that there were still Coolie women who suffered these indignities. Since this is the very first time we are using these data points, we can only take this year's findings as a baseline and start commenting from our next Effects Monitoring exercise.

Cases of Women who have no say in their Family Expenses, Loans, etc. (Powerlessness Indicator)	410	Cases
Cases of Women who expressed they could not support their Daughters in their choice of marriage	102	Cases
No. of Women not able to do their normal household/outside work for more than 1-2 months in the last year (Bad Health Indicator)	148	Women
No. of Women who suffered the insult of not being able to cook for their families because there was no Ration, Fuel wood and/or Water for 1-2 days (Poverty Indicator)	3	Women

B.4. All Forms of Domestic Violence (Physical & Mental) Tracked and Stopped

Primary Data

When making our Strategic Plan and LogFrame 1½ years back, we were tempted to stop measuring this Indicator. But, after some serious deliberation, we felt that gender gains made by Coolie women could easily revert if we did not continue to pay attention to crass realities like domestic violence, desertion, *et al.*

Cases of Domestic Violence reported during this year	211	Cases
Cases of Domestic Violence Stopped	183	Cases
Husbands and Wives Separated on advice of Mahila Meeting	30	Separations
Legal Divorces obtained during the past one year	6	Divorces

B.5. Positive Trends in Coolie Women's Health

Primary Data

The count of childbirths in the village versus those that take place in hospitals is a contestable indicator, open to conflicting conclusions. Sociologists claim that an increase in hospital deliveries indicates an improvement in health services. We would counter that it indicates the competence of/faith in Village Health Workers.

Notwithstanding that, 11 mother/child deaths in 857 deliveries does not augur well.

No. of Child births that took place in the past 1 year	857	Births
No. of Child births conducted by the VHW in the Village	275	Village Births
No. of Child births conducted in Govt and Pvt. Hospitals	577	Hospital Births
No of Mother and/or Child Deaths during Child birth during the past 1 year	11	Deaths
No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 1 Child	120	Women
No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 2 Children	370	Women
No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 3 or more Children	124	Women

B.6. Increased Satisfaction with Functioning of Government Health Delivery System

Primary Data

No. of Ambulance calls availed	872	Cases
No. of Strikes & Struggles against Govt. Doctors & Nurses	99	Strikes

Lessons Learnt

Family Planning Operations

120 young mothers got operated after having just 1 child. We were, quite naturally, eager to know why. Was it because they had such great faith in the survivability of the child? If so, where did that faith come from? At the time of writing this report, our Mahila Trainers went back to them and quizzed deeper, promising not to reveal their identities. Here is what we found out:

Reason	Cases	
Young women's own decision	17	24%
Deserted by their husbands after childbirth	13	19%
2nd wives who realized they had blundered by marrying their men	11	16%
Husbands died	9	13%
Pressure from the mothers-in-law	7	10%
Health Reasons (4 cases of epilepsy during childbirth)	6	9%
Will not reveal reasons	3	4%
Drunkard husbands do not look after their families	3	4%
Husband suspects fidelity – rather get operated than pregnant by boyfriend	1	1%
	70	100%

The lesson is obvious. Mahila Meetings are, by no means, just forums for Coolie women to collectively address practical and strategic gender needs. They are instruments that provide individual women with freedom and confidence to make hard choices regarding their own lives, and act upon those decisions. The onus on us, secondary stakeholders, is huge.

Coolie women preserve castelessness in the Coolie Sangha

Contrary to male manufactured propaganda that women are the preservers caste and custom, the biggest contribution of Mahila Meetings to the Coolie Sangha as a whole is in the relentless pursuit of castelessness. Regular discussion in the *in camera* women's meetings leads to a natural support

for inter-caste and choice marriages in the villages. 17 inter-caste marriages were supported in a most matter of fact manner, without making a big hullabaloo. Yet, parents often are obstructionist. This is because of a gap that still exists between their intellectual and social consciousness.

C. SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES ADOPTED

ACTIVITIES

[A/R CDM Project Preparation](#)

Background

As explained in previous reports, our attempt to project dry land horticulture as Afforestation/Re-forestation and register it as an A/R CDM Project is close to 15 years old. The technology is to plant fruit and fodder trees on the scattered rain fed holdings of Member Coolie families, and wean them away from the dangers of *timely* rain dependent field crops.

The region receives about 560 mm of rainfall, but this is erratic and spatial. Field crops, on the other hand, need timely and predictable rainfall.

Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) Project

15 years back, we registered the first *avatar* of this project, the “Bagepalli Tamarind Project”, under AIJ after it was certified by the DoE, US government. It was to plant tamarind trees on 1,000 hectares of Coolie land. The science was provided by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

This was one of the world’s first scientifically proven sequestration models, a *precursor* to CDM. But unfortunately, nothing came of it by way of resource mobilisation and actual implementation.

“Own Efforts” Plantings

Nevertheless, we ploughed on. From 1996, Member Coolie families put aside small patches of their land to plant tamarind and mango saplings under what we call the “Own Efforts” project. Except for technical assistance to procure good saplings, ADATS did not have the money to help them with anything else.

In 11 years from 1996 to 2007, Member Coolie families planted a total of 74,254 saplings, but the survival rate was very poor at 26%.

Strategic Planning

We realised that saplings planted on dry lands just couldn’t survive unless there was a systematic programme to support them with technical inputs, watering arrangements, *et al.* In April 2007 we conducted a very long and serious strategic planning workshop where we gleaned learning from all our *ad hoc* efforts up until then.

A/R Validation

In mid 2007 we revised the PDD, prepared our CCBA documentation and appointed TÜV SÜD, München, to validate the project. Though a lot of ground was covered in the desk study and first validation visit, it was nowhere near completion. We hadn’t established proper tenure records for each Coolie landholding in the strict manner that the rigour of CDM demanded.

Delineating Discrete Plots & Establishing Land Tenure

GIS readings had to be taken of the multiple corners that each plot comprised. Latitude/Longitude readings had to be placed on GPS maps. The shapes of each discrete plots had to be rechecked in the field. Village maps had to be overlaid on Google Earth to ensure authenticity. The exact area had to

be digitally calculated. Title Deeds (*Pahanis* and *Kathe* records, *Saguvali Chitis*, etc.) had to be obtained, cross-checked, scanned and fed into our A/R Preparation solution.

The delineation of distinct parcels of land where the A/R CDM would be implemented involved painstaking and time consuming efforts.

Trees Module & Polygon Recorder

Immediately after the first validation, our IT personnel began working on the *in house* development of a software to help in the process. 3 years down the line, this software is finally debugged and close to ready. Tristle Technologies is currently developing a high value product from all this domain knowledge, which they will market to other NGOs who want to develop land based emission reduction projects.

Process Map

We took GIS readings and fed it all into this software, but found huge errors. Plots were misshapen, they overlapped and even their orientation was warped! It took ages of field tests, trial and error to get it right.

Missing out on even small and seemingly inconsequential steps led to disaster. Calibration settings of the handheld GIS reading devices had to be just right. Landowners had to plant stones on every corner of their plots and not just “guess” their boundaries. Machine numbers, Land Ids and Reading Numbers had to be precisely recorded. After 6 months of pure slog in village after village, over 60,000 readings had to be deleted, literally bringing tears in the eyes of Field Staff who had taken those readings. And every time the possibility of an error was detected, the software had to be re-coded to digitally recognise it and prevent wrong recording.

Eventually, when we did get it right, a very detailed process map consisting 5 Activity Processes 33 Tasks was finalised and we started all over again.

- Preparing A/R CDM Training Material
- Creating Ownership
- Checking Database Landholding details
- Updating Database
- Physically Marking each Landholding

Every single ADATS Staff – Field Workers, Mahila Trainers, Case Workers, Extension Workers, *et al*, were put on the job. When it was found that more hands were needed, 5 more Staff were appointed, especially for this task. Dozens of village volunteers were recruited and paid Rs 10 for every plot that they successfully recorded. They went to each and every one of the 12,970 plots and walked on their boundaries *for an average of 3.5 times!*

In the meanwhile, our IT Staff were downloading the readings from the handheld GIS instruments, checking the shapes against Google Earth³, printing out the pre-final shapes and sending them back to the field for further cross-checking.

Baseline Surveys

During these visits, a whole lot of vital information on each discrete plots was also collected. This included the government allotted Survey Number, Title holder, Soil Type, Gradient, Contour bund quality, distance from a perennial water source, etc.

³ We owe a big debt to our Kiwi friends who pressurised Google to stream these godforsaken corners of the earth that they would otherwise have not bothered to send their satellites over!

Alongside, the carbon stock on the plots was also recorded – i.e. the number of species of existing trees, their girth, height, location, etc. On average, each discrete plot of land has a little under 5 trees, and each acre has about 3 trees.

	Total Holdings		Baseline Recorded on		Trees Found on		No Trees Found on		Trees per Plot/Acre
Discrete Plots	12,970	100%	11,910	92%	7,109	60%	4,801	40%	4.82
Acres	24,047	100%	19,958	83%	12,311	62%	7,648	38%	2.88

Committing the Discrete Plots

After our IT Staff made final corrections and entered the baseline information, they committed these plots – i.e. froze them for the PDD. Once registered, it is on these irrefutably identified plots alone that the A/R CDM Project can be implemented for the next 60 years.

Project Design Document (PDD)

As and when the data was finalised, our A/R Consultant began finalising sections of the PDD for the second validation. In the meanwhile, a new methodology was released by the UNFCCC and our revised PDD had to undergo major changes.

Now, at the time of writing this report, we are finally ready for the next validation visit scheduled for July 2010. When registered, this will be a unique trail blazer for several reasons:

- Firstly there are only 14 A/R CDM Projects registered in the world thus far. Of them, only a handful are under large scale methodologies.
- No one has dared develop such a widely spread out A/R CDM with such a high number of discrete plots.
- The entire and total benefit of this project will go to small and marginal farmers.
- Finally, as an offshoot of the A/R preparation technology that ADATS developed, it is now possible to irrefutably identify lands for Low Carbon Farming projects that interpret Sustainable Agriculture practices of small and marginal farmers as emission reduction and earn carbon revenues.

Participating Families

12,970 plots of land comprising 24,047 acres and belonging to 8,913 families have been selected from 418 villages for the Bagepalli CDM Reforestation Programme.

Of these, 10,922 plots (84%) totalling 19,968 acres (83%) have been readied for validation.⁴

Participating Families Selected for A/R CDM Project

Taluk	Villages	Participating Families	Plots	Land holding	Selected Plots	Acres	Committed Plots		Committed Acres	
Bagepalli	138	3,249	6,522	12,453	4,777	9,303	3,643	76%	6,963	75%
Cb'pur	47	895	1,612	2,125	1,366	1,659	1,284	94%	1,566	94%
C'mani	106	2,060	3,812	7,432	2,898	5,487	2,528	87%	4,832	88%
Si'hatta	77	1,755	3,351	6,994	2,623	5,231	2,283	87%	4,474	86%
Gudibanda	50	954	1,600	2,868	1,306	2,367	1,184	91%	2,133	90%
Total	418	8,913	16,897	31,873	12,970	24,047	10,922	84%	19,968	83%

A gender analysis of these 8,913 participating families shows that 53% of them are SC/ST families who own 49% of the A/R CDM Project lands. 18% to middle castes who own 18% of the selected

⁴ This is an acceptable number as per UNFCCC guidelines that stipulate that 66% of the selected plots need to be validated

lands. 30% to upper castes who own 33% of the land. These figures show that no single caste or community hogs the project.

But the pattern of landholding reveals that 28% of the plots are more than 5 acres each, while only 10% of them are less than 1 acre.

Gender Analysis of Participating Families

	Active Mem- bers	Inactive Families	Selected Plots	Total Acres	Committed Plots		Committed Acres	
Men	5,803	377	9,276	17,705	7,745	83%	14,600	82%
Women	2,568	165	3,694	6,343	3,177	86%	5,369	85%
SC/ST	4,384	297	6,591	11,866	5,424	82%	9,778	82%
Middle	1,457	112	2,277	4,249	1,918	84%	3,463	81%
Upper	2,530	133	4,102	7,932	3,580	87%	6,727	85%
Active	8,371	-	12,302	22,714	10,411	85%	18,965	83%
Inactive	-	542	668	1,334	511	76%	1,004	75%
0.1-1 Acres	1,109	63	1,279	781	1,111	87%	680	87%
1.1-2 Acres	1,743	136	2,356	2,618	2,031	86%	2,270	87%
2.1-3 Acres	1,614	117	2,420	3,681	2,055	85%	3,126	85%
3.1-4 Acres	1,155	73	1,819	3,362	1,488	82%	2,784	83%
4.1-5 Acres	869	43	1,509	3,092	1,294	86%	2,658	86%
> 5 Acres	1,881	110	3,587	10,513	2,943	82%	8,451	80%
Overall	8,371	542	12,970	24,047	10,922	84%	19,968	83%

Planning Implementation

We have further studied the discrete plots under holding size. Who owns them, their physical characteristics, proximity to a perennial water source, etc.

	0.1-1 Ac		1.1-2 Ac		2.1-3 Ac		3.1-4 Ac		4.1-5 Ac		> 5 Ac		Total Plots
No. of Families	3,388		3,566		2,099		1,003		496		583		
No. of Discrete Plots	4,563		4,055		2,231		1,031		507		583		12,970
Active	4,372	96%	3,827	94%	2,104	94%	973	94%	480	95%	546	94%	12,302
Inactive	191	4%	228	6%	127	6%	58	6%	27	5%	37	6%	668
SC/ST	2,354	52%	2,103	52%	1,137	51%	512	50%	232	46%	253	43%	6,591
Middle	802	18%	693	17%	388	17%	189	18%	96	19%	109	19%	2,277
Upper	1,407	31%	1,259	31%	706	32%	330	32%	179	35%	221	38%	4,102
Close to Water	2,759	60%	2,493	61%	1,333	60%	614	60%	282	56%	345	59%	7,826
Walking Distance	277	6%	291	7%	164	7%	84	8%	43	8%	33	6%	892
Too Far	186	4%	144	4%	101	5%	38	4%	27	5%	25	4%	521
No Data	1,341	29%	1,127	28%	633	28%	295	29%	155	31%	180	31%	3,731
Black Soil	247	5%	174	4%	74	3%	38	4%	13	3%	21	4%	567
Clay	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
Mixed	1,071	23%	981	24%	588	26%	264	26%	153	30%	198	34%	3,255
Pebbles	18	-	24	1%	18	1%	4	-	2	-	3	1%	69
Red Soil	1,567	34%	1,520	37%	826	37%	373	36%	174	34%	168	29%	4,628
Sandy Loan	967	21%	803	20%	411	18%	183	18%	81	16%	82	14%	2,527
No Data	692	15%	553	14%	314	14%	168	16%	84	17%	110	19%	1,921

This information is used by our IT solution to apply complex algorithms and generate text and digitized map reports. The software solution will suggest on which discrete plots the saplings have the highest chance of survival, where we would encounter special challenges, etc.

Implementing a Dry Land Development Pilot Project on 200 family hectare plots

Marcus Fund of SCATEC AS

Seeing the struggle of Coolie families to raise trees on their own with little success, a rich friend and benefactor of the Coolie Sangha gave them moneys to undertake a pilot project on 100 hectares (250 acres). This was for us to be able to demonstrate to the outside world – Validators, fellow NGOs, *et al* – that dry land horticulture was indeed a viable proposition.

Mangoes seem to have a higher survival rate than tamarind. But this, we believe, is because the hardness of tamarind is overrated in popular perception, and people believe that it will survive even without basic care, watering and protection. This, of course, is not true.

Species Planted under the Marcus Fund (as on 31 March 2010)

Species	Saplings Planted	Survived		Avg. Age	Avg. Girth	Avg. Height
Mango	26,557	21,619	81%	23 months	12.70 cm	82.34 cm
Tamarind	268	116	43%	10 months	11.06 cm	105.24 cm
TOTAL	26,825	21,735	81%			

As we will elaborate in the next section, survival rates of 2009 planting are better because a water absorbing slab of Rockwool was used in each pit. But it is too soon to comment on 7 month old plants.

Timeline of the Marcus Fund (as on 31 March 2010)

Species	Saplings Planted	Survived		Avg. Age	Avg. Girth	Avg. Height
2008	6,089	3,725	61%	23 months	18.55 cm	127.46 cm
2009	19,403	17,006	88%	7 months	9.35 cm	100.39 cm
2010	1,333	1,004	75%	5 months	6.82 cm	85.87 cm
TOTAL	26,825	21,735	81%			

Male headed, middle caste families who own more than 3 acres of land seem to fare better than others. This cannot lead us to conclude that they are the only ones who can go in for dry land horticulture. Instead, it means that women headed, SC/ST landholders who own less than 3 acres need extra attention and that our implementation technology has to take care of their particular needs.

Status of Marcus Fund Planting (as on 31 March 2010)

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANTS		OUTPUT		OUTCOME	
	Families	Landholding (Ac)	Planted (Ac)	Saplings	Survived	
Men	85	620	204	22,633	18,661	82%
Women	27	97	37	4,192	3,074	73%
SC/ST	56	303	97	10,906	8,674	80%
Middle Castes	10	46	17	1,787	1,623	91%
Upper Castes	46	368	126	14,132	11,438	81%
Active Members	111	715	239	26,665	21,600	81%
Inactive Families	1	2	2	160	75	47%
0.1-1 Acres	13	9	7	1,133	725	64%
1.1-2 Acres	17	24	16	1,922	1,326	69%
2.1-3 Acres	11	29	12	1,347	957	71%
3.1-4 Acres	13	43	22	2,530	2,025	80%
4.1-5 Acres	7	32	13	1,315	1,054	80%
Over 5 Acres	51	579	170	18,578	15,648	84%
OVERALL	112	717	240	26,825	21,735	81%

The Rockwool Experiment

There is a marked difference in the survival rate of trees in 2008 and 2009. This is because of the new technology we introduced at about that time. Rockwool, as we have described in the 5th Effects

Monitoring Report, is a substance that can absorb a whole lot of water that the sapling can tap into. It's impact is that twice-a-week watering can be reduced to one-in-two-weeks.

Parallel experimentation with a more sturdy scientific discipline is underway by TNO to "prove" to the academic world that Rockwool is indeed useful in dry land horticulture. But ADATS and the Coolie Sangha do not feel the need to wait for those rigorous results to come out. We are convinced that any planting technology has to include Rockwool.

The only issue, however, is cost. If the Indian subsidiary of Saint Gobain Cultilène could manufacture horticulture variety Rockwool at its factory in Hyderabad, this will reduce transportation and import duty costs. Then it will become immensely affordable.

Icco/EED Supported 5th Consortium

Icco and EED followed with another sanction for yet another pilot on 200 hectares (500 acres). We included this in the current budget because we knew that a successful demonstration on a total of 300 hectares would irrefutably prove the viability of A/R CDM on dry lands of small and poor peasants.

Since it is far too early to comment on performance, we will simply record the figures for better analysis when we conduct the next Effects Monitoring exercise next year.

Species Planted under the Icco/EED Supported 5th Consortium (as on 31 March 2010)

Species	Saplings Planted	Survived	Avg. Age	Avg. Girth	Avg. Height
Mango	15,652	13,330	85%	8 months	97.76 cm
Cashewnut	300	270	90%	7 months	40.00 cm
TOTAL	15,952	13,600	85%		

Status of Icco/EED Supported 5th Consortium Planting (as on 31 March 2010)

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANTS		OUTPUT		OUTCOME	
	Families	Landholding (Ac)	Planted (Ac)	Saplings	Survived	
Men	39	159	96	10,459	9,028	86%
Women	28	81	52	5,493	4,572	83%
SC/ST	28	107	60	6,275	5,181	83%
Middle Castes	27	85	52	5,548	4,796	86%
Upper Castes	12	48	36	4,129	3,623	88%
Active Members	67	240	148	15,952	13,600	85%
Inactive Families	-	-	-	-	-	-
0.1-1 Acres	4	3	2	240	184	77%
1.1-2 Acres	21	32	20	2,149	1,640	76%
2.1-3 Acres	17	43	22	2,290	1,849	81%
3.1-4 Acres	13	45	27	2,874	2,496	87%
4.1-5 Acres	3	13	7	688	653	95%
Over 5 Acres	9	105	71	7,711	6,778	88%
OVERALL	67	240	148	15,952	13,600	85%

Rating the Effects/Results

The 64 Cluster Review Meets who reviewed this Main Effect (Objective) had mixed feelings. Perhaps because of the overt attention we had given to detail throughout this reporting period. After all, deleting all the GIS reading they had painstakingly taken for several months wouldn't have left them in a particularly good mood. Nor having to visit each landholding 3-4 times to check and cross-check and re-check! Almost half of them wondered if our A/R CDM efforts were leading anywhere at all – ADATS is truly grateful for the patience with which Member Coolie families have heard our rant on dry land horticulture and tolerated our idiosyncrasies for the past 15 years.

64 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Very Positive	6	9%
Slightly Better than last year	25	39%
No Change	31	48%
Slightly Worse than Last Year	2	3%

C.1. No Forced Migration Due to Destitution

Primary Data

No. of Persons who Migrated due to lack of Food and Employment	43	Persons
No. of Families (children and aged) who suffered because Earning Member was not at home	39	Families

C.2. No Temptation Sale of Coolie Lands, Lured by Fancy Prices

Primary Data

Largely because of a constant contact with ADATS Staff who continually visited their fields the whole of this reporting period, the cases of Coolie families who either partially or totally abandoned agriculture by selling lands has reduced. Moreover, A/R preparation activities have raised expectation of a transformed agriculture.

No. of Coolie Families who Mortgaged their Lands to Ryots under Bhogyam in the past 1 year	10	Mortgages
No. of Coolie Families who actually sold their lands during the past 1 year	50	Cases
No. of Coolie Families who attempted to sell their lands during the past 1 year	16	Cases

D. COOLIE FAMILIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITIES

Coolie Credit Funds (CCFs)

In this reporting period:

- 510 loans amounting to Rs 15.34 million were given out by 234 village CSUs.
- 901 loan instalments amounting to Rs 13.47 million were repaid by 242 villages to their respective CCFs.

CCF Loans & Repayments in the past 3 years (as on 31 March 2008)

Period	Loans Given Out			Instalments Repaid		
	CSUs	Loans	Amount	CSUs	Repayments	Amount
This Reporting Period (2009-10)	234	510	15,340,100	242	901	13,472,401
Year Before Last (2008-09)	78	203	7,839,700	162	1,440	2,206,179
2 Years Back (2007-08)	105	1,812	4,392,450	150	1,266	2,393,112
3 Years Back (2006-07)	55	3,674	8,311,690	119	5,299	12,222,505
4 Years Back (2007-08)	193	3,628	7,450,554	313	5,435	6,782,192

The character of CCF loans has substantially changed with the Coolie Sangha using their credit capital only to give out large loans for common entrepreneurial purposes. However, there was no blanket ban on individual borrowings. 142 Member Coolie families borrowed for cattle rearing, 3 for agriculture and 1 crop loan.

CCF Utilisation Pattern in the Reporting Year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Loan Purpose	Amount Borrowed		Number of Loans		Average Borrowing
Crop Loans	2,000	-	1	-	2,000
Agriculture	14,000	-	3	1%	4,667
Cattle	981,000	6%	142	28%	6,909
Trade & Entrepreneurship	14,343,000	94%	364	71%	39,404
Total	15,340,100	100%	510	100%	30,079

With this change in character of the decentralised credit system, it's health improved marginally:

- Exposed Portfolio Rate in the functioning villages dropped to 71% (overall 81%)
- Delinquency Rate dropped to 68% (overall 79%)
- Recovery Rate climbed to 82% (overall 78%)

Cumulative loans given in the past 26 years stood at Rs 183.76 million through 60,007 loans.

Celina Cows Project

63 Coolie women received loans totalling Rs 1.92 million from a specially created Celina Cows Fund. They have repaid 335 instalments totalling Rs 258,180 but Rs 413,198 is outstanding as overdue.

- 27 of them are women headed households; and 36 male headed
- 36 of them belong to SC/ST, 4 to middle castes and 23 are poor people who belong to upper castes
- 12 of them have an annual family income of between Rs 6-12,000; 32 between Rs 12-18,000; 12 between Rs 18-24,000; and 6 between Rs 24-36,000
- 9 are landless families; 29 own less than 2 acres; 18 between 2-5 acres; and 7 own more than 5 acres of rain fed dry land
- 13 live in bad houses; 4 in rented houses; and 46 in modest and good houses

They have borrowed an average of Rs 30,546. 83% of their loan amounts have been used to buy crossbred cows, 18% on insurance cover, 4% on transport, buckets, chains, etc, and 5% on fodder and feed concentrates.

Being the poorest of the poor, these women have to be handheld to manage such costly cows. 5 ADATS Extension Workers do this through regular field inspections. They are available to every single

borrower, day and night, by mobile phone. Women call in panic when something goes wrong and our Extension Workers respond by taking a Veterinarian, holding a special Mahila Meeting to iron out some issue, or simply talk to them till they calm down.

Rating the Effects/Results

Quite surprisingly, the overwhelming majority of the Cluster Review Meets felt the change from individual borrowing/lending to a changed usage of their village CCFs as positive.

65 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Slightly Better than last year	53	82%
No Change	12	18%

D.1. Petty Business Ventures Become Profitable

Primary Data

No. of Self-Employed Business Units that were running Successfully Last Year	154	Units
No. of Youth who were in those Self-Employed Business Units Last Year	431	Youth
No of those Self-Employed Business Units that are still running Successfully Today	145	Units
No. of New Self-Employed Business Units that have Started this Year	3	Units

D.2. Family Savings & Assets Built Up

Primary Data

Average Family Savings in Bank Account	1,011	Rupees
No. of New Assets (Land, House & Cattle) Purchased by Member Coolie Families	664	Cases
Total Value of New Assets Purchased	22,990,310	Rupees

E. COOLIE CHILDREN

ACTIVITIES

Children's Schooling

19,761 children from 477 village CSUs were supported to attend government schools in their villages in the academic year 2009-10. This activity was managed by as many CSU appointed and paid-for Balakendra Teachers. 83% of school-age children in the 5-16 age group from Active Member families were in school.

Girls constituted 48% of the total, but 50% of High School children were girls.

Gender Disaggregated Details of Children in School (as on 31 March 2010)

	Children	Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle	Upper
Primary School (1 to 5)	6,412	32%	51%	49%	53%	30%
Middle School (6 to 7)	3,656	19%	49%	51%	54%	29%
High School (8 to 10)	6,789	34%	50%	50%	52%	29%
PUC	1,629	8%	57%	43%	47%	35%
Degree	770	4%	69%	31%	45%	40%
Diploma/Other	464	2%	71%	29%	43%	40%
Total	19,761	100%	52%	48%	52%	30%

A whole lot of activity processes were involved in getting these Results. These included the listing and enrolment of school going children by the Mahila Meetings, admission, re-admission, awareness raising and pursuit of measures to prevent drop-out and under-age marriages, training Balakendra Teachers, conducting every evening Balakendras, need assessment and allocation of Sangha Funds for scholarship, giving top-up grants where village bank balances were low, conducting annual sports, coaching classes, etc.

Balakendras

Rent was paid every month for all but 97 CSU owned Balakendra building, electricity and gas filling charges paid and physical amenities kept in order. Children came before sunset for the every evening programme and played outdoor games. Afterwards, they got together in the buildings to play games, carry out extra curricular activities and also to study.

Balakendras continued to be spaces where a whole lot of other child centric activities took place. Balakendras Teachers were also points persons for the village CSUs, especially the Mahila Meetings, to involve themselves in the monitoring of government school performance through School Betterment Committees.

ADATS Case Workers regularly visited these Balakendras and gave support to the Teachers.

64 new Balakendra Teachers were Appointed during the past 6 months. This turnover is both, worrisome as well as irksome. However much we requested Mahila Meetings to please not select daughters (who would marry and go away) and instead give preference to daughters-in-law of the village, we had a heavy turnover of Balakendra Teachers. The problem can easily be seen when we compare Balakendras that have the same Teachers for the past 10-15 years with those where there is a turnover every 3-4 years. Of 352 Balakendra Teachers, 267 were regular as clockwork in conducting classes every evening from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The remaining 24% were irregular and children do suffer in their overall performance.

In the past 4-5 years, the focus in this every evening activity has drastically shifted from academics to extra-curricular. This is because of an overall improvement in Government schools in the villages with more teachers, resources and a greater investment.

Monthly Teacher Training sessions continued uninterrupted in spite of all the problems we faced with Save the Children, New Zealand. ADATS took a firm decision that this cadre would not be abandoned for lack of funds. Fortunately, at the time of writing this Report, SCNZ problems seem to have been solved to some degree, and remittances are expected in July 2010.

Scholarship Benefits

For a few Mahila Meetings from Gudibanda Taluk and Mittemari in Bagepalli, this was the very first year that they had to spend Sangha Funds to give out scholarships. For the past 13 years, this budget line had been met by SCNZ. The difference, of course, was that all children had hitherto received the same amount, irrespective of their caste, family income, etc. under a standard class-in-school wise distribution table. Now they had to prioritise based on need.

It was a new and difficult experience for them. ADATS Mahila Trainers had to convince them that the largesse was over and that they had to spend from their own funds.

For the remaining Mahila Meetings, this was nothing new since their equally impressive work with children was never ever supported with external funding.

A total of 10,050 children in higher classes received Rs 4.13 million as scholarships from their respective Sangha Funds.

	No. of Children		Amount	
Eligible for Scholarship	12,631	100%	6,059,400	100%
LESS: Children of Families who haven't paid continuous Sangha Tax	1,162	9%	544,350	9%
Therefore can give out	11,469	91%	5,515,050	91%
Scholarships given out	10,050	88%	4,131,620	75%
Yet to give	1,419	12%	1,383,430	25%

Rating the Effects/Results

Since no Primary Data was used when examining this Result, only 7 Cluster Meets bothered to give their opinion. Predictably, they were the ones who had a lot to complain about the new system wherein the entire expenditure on children's education had to be borne from Sangha Funds (partly by design and largely due to the sudden and unexpected decision of SCNZ to close shop after sanctioning a 3 year programme).

7 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Slightly Better than last year	2	29%
No Change	1	14%
Very Negative	4	57%

E.1. Mahila Meetings Exercise Control over Govt. Schools

Not monitored

E.2. School Children Receive their Dues from Govt. Schools

Not monitored

E.3. Coolie Children Receive a Childhood

Not monitored

E.4. Coolie Children Perform on Par with other Children

Secondary Data

For many years, we have prided ourselves in comparing just the performance of girls versus boys. It is true that we have achieved a lot in terms of a perfect sex parity even in High School. But a closer look at the data shows that this is not quite the case when it comes to another gender category – caste and community

While only 69% and 68% of SC/ST and Middle Caste children complete their schooling, 76% of Upper Caste Coolies succeed. It must be borne in mind that all 3 caste categories are from almost the same landholding, income and occupation stratifications – i.e. they are all landed and landless labourers who also scratch their fields for subsistence cultivation – the Coolie caste/class.

15 Year History of the self-financed Child Support Activity (March 2010)

	Total		Boys		Girls		SC/ST		Middle		Upper	
Supported by Coolie Sangha	50,044	100%	26,433	100%	23,611	100%	26,904	100%	9,406	100%	13,734	100%
Left after Primary School	9,660	19%	4,762	18%	4,898	21%	5,570	21%	2,007	21%	2,083	15%
Left after Middle School	4,901	10%	2,599	10%	2,302	10%	2,753	10%	993	11%	1,155	8%
Left after Completing School	10,454	21%	5,537	21%	4,917	21%	5,746	21%	2,050	22%	2,658	19%
Left after College	5,268	11%	3,302	12%	1,966	8%	2,534	9%	880	9%	1,854	13%
Still in School	19,761	39%	10,233	39%	9,528	40%	10,301	38%	3,476	37%	5,984	44%
Failed to fully Support	14,561	29%	7,361	28%	7,200	30%	8,323	31%	3,000	32%	3,238	24%
Successes	35,483	71%	19,072	72%	16,411	70%	18,581	69%	6,406	68%	10,496	76%

F. COOLIE YOUTH**ACTIVITIES**Youth Strategic Plan

It took a while to finalise the Youth Strategic Plan and we were able to submit it to the NZ Government, through SCNZ, only on 1 May 2009. They, in turn, took a 3 weeks to study it and approve. Funding was received in the end of May.

We then had to select Staff and orient them. This turned out to be more difficult that we had expected. Though the LogFrame and Strategic Plan was perfectly clear to us, the people who had prepared it over a one year period, it was difficult for fresh staff to comprehend.

Youth Groups

40 Cluster level Youth Groups were formed in the months of June and July 2009 and 6 new Staff were appointed to work in this programme. In August 2009, elections were held for the Youth to themselves elect their Cluster Convenors. Another 40 Youth Groups were formed in March 2010, but they still haven't elected their Convenors. Each Youth Group opened a separate Bank account with the post of Cheque Signatory reserved for girls.

All the Youth Groups met once a fortnight at their respective Cluster. The main agendas of these meeting was to help Youth acquire IT skills, impart training on how to use the RTI to pull up errant government officials, monitor NREGA implementation, send Youth to city jobs, and generally discuss the future of schooled Coolie Youth.

12 Youth Action Camps were conducted for public service. These were village level events to help poor people fight the lethargy of government officials and get NREGA Job Cards, Ration Cards, etc. 935 poor people obtained Job Cards due to these camps.

Youth Convenors collected detailed information from various government agencies on benefits available to college youth. These included scholarships, free hostel seats, free bus passes, job skill training, etc. They also got to know the procedure on how to avail these facilities. They approached commercial Banks for information on loans for higher education.

12 Coolie Youth selected by their respective Youth Groups, contested Gram Panchayat Raj elections in April 2010. Of them, 10 won are now Gram Panchayat Members. 2 lost with narrow margins.

Supporting College Children

All 40 Youth Group were granted an amount of Rs 25,000 each and asked to decide whom they wanted to support with college fees. Just as the Mahila Meetings did this with their Coolie Sangha allotted children's budgets, the Youth had to themselves decide.

This did cause a lot of confusion. Many of them had thought this would be a charity programme with a benevolent patron dishing out grants. But when they realised that was not going to happen, they took tough decisions to screen each college student.

35 Youth Groups discussed and decided to give college fees only for students who genuinely needed support, all by themselves. But 5 Youth Groups fought among themselves and appealed to our Staff to help them out. When we refused, senior Coolie Sangha functionaries from their respective Clusters sat in to sort matters out.

In this academic year, a total of Rs 921,350 was given out to 1,298 college going Youth as college fees.

ADATS Staff supported 56 students to avail different government benefits. 35 got scholarships, 10 got free hostel seats and 11 obtained concessional bus passes.

23 Youth applied for Education Loans from commercial Banks. 13 got their loans sanctioned for their higher education, but 10 were rejected for lack of proper documentations.

Every year, in the months of July and August, data is collected and entered into our digitized database, *InfoNeeds*[®], to track the progress of college going Youth.

Like Skill Training

9 month-long Life Skill training camps were conducted this year, in our newly constructed Youth Centre. With this, a total of 1,717 Coolie youth had attended 59 Life Skill training camps. Of them, 1,574 youth (853 boys and 721 girls) successfully completed their month long programme.

A separate Training module for the month long Life Skill Training camps was developed by ADATS. Our IT Instructors analysed their 6 year long experiences and toned up the syllabus to improve performance.

Besides IT (computer basics, MS Office, surfing and email), spoken English, Karate, Life Skills, RTI Training, Library time, outdoor games, etc. now form part of the curriculum.

Placing Youth in City Jobs

After examining dozens of work places, our Extension Workers identified 2 factories in Bangalore as safe places for our Youth to work in. They also found 2 institutes that gave decent job skill training.

During this reporting period, 162 Coolie Youth were placed in city Jobs. 28 in tailoring, 4 in security and 130 in various other jobs. In one of these places, where the employer was not providing food and accommodation, ADATS supported a batch of 12 girls to find accommodation and paid them Rs 1,000 each to "set up home".

Since we hadn't as yet developed a good digitized tracking module, It was difficult to tack the progress of Youth in city jobs. We tried to collect their mobile phone numbers, but this didn't work out since Youth keep on changing their service providers.

Rating the Effects/Results

64 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Very Positive	1	2%
Slightly Better than last year	43	67%
No Change	17	27%
Slightly Worse than Last Year	3	5%

F.1. Coolie Youth Obtain City Jobs

Primary Data

No. of Schooled-completed Youth who are in City Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	1,117	Youth
No. of Girls among them who are in City Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	299	Girls
No. of School-completed Youth who are NOT in Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	1,344	Youth
No. of Youth who came back from City Jobs after 3-6 months and are now Unemployed	190	Youth
No. of Youth who came back from City Jobs and started their Own Businesses in the Village	58	Youth

F.2. Marriage Age Pushed Above Legal Minimum

Primary Data

No. of Marriage-age Girls (over 18 years)	1,498	Girls
No of Marriage-age Girls who are in College	638	Girls
No. of Marriage-age Girls who are in Jobs	225	Girls
No of Marriage-age Girls who are doing Petty Businesses	39	Girls
No. of Marriage-age Girls who are at Home	608	Girls
No. of Attempts at Under-age Marriages Stopped	6	Cases
No. of Under-age Marriages that could not be Stopped	2	Cases

G. NEW FORM OF UNITY THAT PRESERVES MEMBER PARTICIPATION & CONCEPT OF REPRESENTATION EVOLVED BY COOLIE SANGHA

It is a little difficult to clearly separate Activity Processes from Results for this critical project objective. So the reader is requested to please read the activities within the lines of the Indicator descriptions.

Rating the Effects/Results

The vast majority of Cluster Review Meets who rated this Main Effect or Objective said things were slightly better than or the same as the previous year. But it is interesting to note that 1 Cluster Review Meet in Chintamani said matters were worse.

66 of 66 Cluster Meets rated their Results:

Very Positive	2	3%
Slightly Better than last year	53	80%
No Change	10	15%
Slightly Worse than Last Year	1	2%

G.1. Steady CSU Membership, Year after YearSecondary Data

CSU Membership dropped 3% from last year to 14,505 in 483 village CSUs after the income declaration, tax payment and membership renewal process was over.

Another 7,198 Non-CSU families benefit from various CDM Projects that ADATS and the Coolie Sangha implement. Together, these 19,051 families constitute 59,927 adults and 21,288 minors.

CSU Membership (as on 31 March 2010)

Phase	Villages		Active Families		Inactive Families		CSU Coverage	Non-CSU Families		Population Coverage
1 st 3 Year Formation	13	1%	367	3%	47	-	76%	37	1%	84%
2 nd 3 Year Formalisation	39	4%	1,251	9%	367	1%	48%	408	6%	64%
3 rd 3 Year Consolidation	12	1%	391	3%	152	1%	28%	174	2%	41%
Independent CSUs	419	46%	12,496	86%	10,636	43%	31%	3,599	50%	40%
Functioning CSUs	483	54%	14,505	100%	11,202	45%	32%	4,218	59%	42%
Dropped out Villages	419	46%	-	-	13,589	55%	-	626	9%	2%
Non-CSU Villages	195	22%	-	-	-	-	-	2,354	9%	-
Total	902	100%	14,505	100%	24,791	100%	19%	7,198	100%	28%

4,983 (34%) of these family memberships are in the names of Coolie women who represent their respective families in the village CSUs. But there are only 1,710 (12%) families that are completely women headed – i.e. there are no male relatives in the 23-60 year age group.

The coverage of the entire population of the region (i.e. all 902 villages) is 28%. But within the functioning villages, coverage is 42%.⁵

51% of CSU Members belong to Scheduled Castes/Tribes, 18% belong to Middle Castes and 31% to Upper Castes. While 37% of the SC/ST population are attracted by the Coolie Sangha, only 29% of the Middle and 32% of Upper Castes join village CSUs.

⁵ These figures need to be re-checked since our database may not have updated information on the total village population of Non-CSU villages

Caste composition of CSU Members (as on 31 March 2010)

Member Families	Percent in CSUs	Caste Group	Total Families		Ethnic Cover
8,566	45%	Scheduled Castes/Tribes	20,417	46%	42%
3,178	17%	Middle Castes	9,459	21%	34%
7,317	38%	Upper Castes	14,719	33%	50%
19,051			44,595	100%	43%

G.2. CSU Members Stay United during ElectionsSecondary Data

Though Gram Panchayat elections were conducted immediately after this reporting period, we give below the results in 4 Taluks. Bagepalli and Gudibanda are the strongest, electorally, with the Coolie Sangha bagging 15% and 16% of the seats, respectively. In constituencies where the Coolie Sangha and their Allies contested together, they got 6% of the seats.

What is clear is that their Allies cannot form a single Gram Panchayat without the support of Coolie Sangha candidates.

Seats won in the 2010 Gram Panchayat Elections

Taluk	Coolie Sangha alone		Allies + Coolie Sangha		Allies alone		Others		Total	
Bagepalli	59	15%	25	6%	112	29%	190	49%	386	100%
Gudibanda	18	16%	9	8%	26	23%	58	52%	111	100%
Siddalaghatta	24	7%	22	6%	134	38%	169	48%	349	100%
Chintamani	52	10%	32	6%	192	36%	253	48%	529	100%
	153	11%	88	6%	464	34%	670	49%	1,375	100%

G.3. Regular & Disciplined Village MeetingsPrimary Data

No. of CSUs who held Regular weekly Meetings	205	CSUs
No. of Mahila Meetings who held Regular weekly Meetings	240	Mahila Meetings
No. of Cluster Meets held regularly with quorum in the past 1 year	1,828	Cluster Meets

G.4. Unification Across Caste LinesPrimary Data

No. of Marriages that took place in the past 1 Year	829	Marriages
No. of Simple Marriages in Village Temples and in front of Houses	626	Marriages
No. of Marriages performed according to Rituals and in Marriage Halls	198	Marriages
No. of Marriages Registered with the Sub Registrar	35	Marriages
No. of Inter-Caste Marriages that took place in the past 1 year	13	Marriages
No. of Inter-Caste Marriages where Girl was from Upper Caste	9	Marriages
No. of Inter-Caste Marriages where Boy was from Upper Caste	4	Marriages
No. of Hindu-Muslim marriages without any Conversion	1	Marriages