

Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS) Bagepalli 561 207 6 Month Progress Report

Period: 1st October 2010 to 31th March 2011
6th Consortium Project Numbers: Icco 03-02-00-679 & EED 20090222 G
"Coolie Sangha Building in Chickballapur District"

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Name of Organisation	Agricultural Development & Training Society
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1.9. Project Title:	Coolie Sangha Building in Chickballapur District
1.10. Project Number:	Icco 03-02-679 & EED 20090222 G
1.11. Project Period	1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012
1.12. Reporting Period:	1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011
1.13. Date of the Report:	28 June 2011
1.14. Author of the Report:	Ram Esteves

2. OUTCOME AND IMPACT

2.1. Which is the agreed upon objective of the project and its indicators:

Project Objective:	Coolie Families Gain Control over their Lives in a Rapidly Changing Political Economy
Project Indicator 1:	Coolie Sangha Develops as an Effective Minority
Project Indicator 2:	Coolie Sangha Contest & Win all Taluk/Gram Panchayat Seats
Project Indicator 3:	Electoral Influence of Ethnic Leaders Negligible
Project Indicator 4:	CSU Winners in Taluk/ Gram Panchayats Made Answerable
Project Indicator 5:	Zero Cases of Corruption & Leakage in Pro-Poor Schemes & Measures
Project Indicator 6:	Fewer Women Suffer Humiliation

2.2. In case your project has different components, what were the agreed upon objectives of those components and their indicators?

Objective for component 1:	A. Coolie Families Fully Access all State Welfare & Transfers
Indicator 1:	A.1. Trend and details of rent-free welfare resources acquisition, Rupee Terms, Taluk-wise
Indicator 2:	A.2. Details of poor families brought under welfare umbrella
Indicator 3:	A.3. Faultless Implementation of NREGA Works & PDS

Objective for component 2:	B. Coolie Women Attain A Person Status within their Families
Indicator 1:	B.1. Men Share in the Mind Numbing & Repetitive Housework of Women
Indicator 2:	B.2. Women Compensated for Unpaid Domestic Work through Carbon Revenues
Indicator 3:	B.3. Equal Decision Making Role Enjoyed within Families
	B.4. All Forms of Domestic Violence (Physical & Mental) Tracked and Stopped
	B.5. Positive Trends in Coolie Women's Health
	B.6. Increased Satisfaction with Functioning of Government Health Delivery System

Objective for component 3:	C. Sustainable Land Use Practices Adopted
Indicator 1:	C.1. No Forced Migration Due to Destitution
Indicator 2:	C.2. No Temptation Sale of Coolie Lands, Lured by Fancy Prices

Objective for component 4:	D. Coolie Families Take Advantage of New Economic Opportunities
Indicator 1:	D.1. Petty Business Ventures Become Profitable
Indicator 2:	D.2. Family Savings & Assets Built Up

Objective for component 5:	E. Coolie Children
Indicator 1:	E.1. Mahila Meetings Exercise Control over Govt. Schools
Indicator 2:	E.2. School Children Receive their Dues from Govt. Schools
Indicator 3:	E.3. Coolie Children Receive a Childhood
Indicator 4:	E.4. Coolie Children Perform on Par with other Children

Objective for component 6:	F. Coolie Youth
Indicator 1:	F.1. Coolie Youth Obtain City Jobs
Indicator 2:	F.2. Marriage Age Pushed Above Legal Minimum

Objective for component 6:	G. New Form of Unity that Preserves Member Participation & Concept of Representation Evolved by Coolie Sangha
Indicator 1:	G.1. Steady CSU Membership, Year after Year
Indicator 2:	G.2. CSU Members Stay United during Elections
Indicator 3:	G.3. Regular & Disciplined Village Meetings
Indicator 4:	G.4. Unification Across Caste Lines

2.3. To what extent could the project objective be achieved? Please report by using the agreed upon indicators. Please, refer to indicators differentiated by sex or with a gender dimension, too. If you have several project components, please report along the objectives and indicators of those components.

GENERAL

The below information is extracted from our 7th Effects Monitoring report which is annexed to this Progressed Report found at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book3/0334/>

However, it is neither a verbatim repeat nor a summary. While the Effects Monitoring exercise recorded the observations and opinions of Primary Stakeholders (Member Coolie families) vis-à-vis Results obtained, this Progress Report attempts at a slightly more objective look at developments, largely from ADATS' perspective.

What follows is plain number speak, without the trimmings of explanations and excuses.

In the below tables, we have given the numbers reported a year back on 31 March 2010, along with current numbers. When looking at them, we ought to keep a point in mind:

- While 14,702 Member Coolie families participated in the exercise a year back, only 11,461 (78%) did so this year.
E.g. When ₹ 16.76 mil worth of bank loans were mobilised this year, as against ₹ 26.67 mil last year, the decrease is only 19% and not 37%.

Our comments are therefore against these "adjusted" numbers and not absolute figures for the previous reporting period.

1 : COOLIE FAMILIES FULLY ACCESS ALL STATE WELFARE & TRANSFERS

Indicator 1 : Trend and Details of Rent-free Welfare Resources Acquisition

Except for a fall in the number and value of bank loans availed, there is a huge increase of 150% to 274% in the number and value of all other loans obtained by Member Coolie families.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Bank Loans availed by Coolie Families this year	952	496	Loans
Rupee Value of Bank Loans obtained this year	26,674,000	16,761,500	Rupees
No. of Coolie Families who availed Coop Society Loans this year	180	384	Loans

Rupee Value of Coop Society Loans this year	3,470,000	6,204.650	Rupees
No. of Coolie Families who availed Other Loans this year	670	904	Loans
Rupee Value of Other Loans obtained this year	10,663,000	13,041,000	Rupees
No. of Women who availed Stree Shakthi Loans this year	1,230	1,437	Loans
Rupee Value of Stree Shakthi Loans obtained this year	10,454,500	14,984,000	Rupees

Indicator 2 : Details of Poor Families brought under Welfare Umbrella

While the number of families who still live in huts and thatched houses remains unchanged, there is a serious drop in the number of people who are today getting various State pensions. This is an irrefutable pointer to a decrease in social welfare outlays, in spite of all government propaganda to the contrary.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Families who are now getting Old Age Pensions from Govt (OAP) today	2,043	1,184	Families
No of Women who are now getting Widow Pensions from Govt. today	703	447	Women
No of Persons who are now getting Physically Challenged Pension from Govt. today	304	194	Persons
No. of Families who got Free Houses sanction in the past 1 year	1,140	534	Houses
No. of Houses that got Free Electricity in the past 1 year	1,124	-	Houses
No. of Families who now live in Huts & Thatched Houses and genuinely need houses	808	645	Families

Indicator 3 : Faultless Implementation of NREGA Works & PDS

NREGA performance has been particularly bad in 2010-11 with only 22% of works done in the previous year executed this year, the average number of days employment dropping from 74 to a mere 22, and only 51% of the previous year's wage bill paid.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of NREGA Works done from April 2009 to March 2010	1,595	278	Works
Average No. of Days of NREGA Works obtained from April 2009 to March 2010	74	22	Days
Total NREGA Wages Paid out from April 2009 to March 2010	63,314,431	25,154,560	Rupees
No. of Cases where NREGA Wages were paid after protests, strikes & struggles	314	93	Cases
No. of Families who do not have NREGA Job Cards today	130	588	Families

There is a huge spurt of 84% in the number of families who do not have a Ration Card at all. This is because of the government's supposed "weeding out" of non-eligible card holders – an excuse that doesn't hold water considering the caste-class of CSU Members. Similarly, there is a drop of 19% in those who are genuinely eligible for Below Poverty Line (BPL) Cards and haven't got them.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Families who do not have any Ration Cards at all	183	262	Families
No. of Families who do not have BPL Ration Cards in spite of being poor and eligible	344	216	Families
No of Cases of protests, strikes & struggles to run the Ration	146	22	Cases

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In spite of a 46% drop in the number of government works executed, there is a huge increase of 80% in budget allocation and 44% in the actual amounts released for these reduced number of works. This clearly suggests that larger works that benefit contractors were taken up.

When compared to last year, there is a drop of 4% in the number of works taken up without corruption, and a corresponding increase of 7% in those executed with a lot of corruption.

	Last Year	Now	
Total No. of Govt. Works approved from April 2009 to March 2010	1,033	439	Works
Total Budget Allocated for all these Works	106,641,000	149,921,000	Rupees
Actual Amount Spent on these Works this year	78,269,553	87,635,000	Rupees
No. of Works done Without Corruption	455	174	Works
No. of Works done with a Little Corruption	321	126	Works
No. of Works done with a Lot of Corruption	258	139	Works

2 : COOLIE WOMEN ATTAIN A PERSON STATUS WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES

Indicator 1 : Men Share in Mind Numbing & Repetitive Housework of Women

Member Coolie families have given a very nuanced interpretation of these numbers in the 7th Effects Monitoring Report.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Husbands who Cook for at least 2-3 days every week	1,957	1,281	Cases
No. of Fathers who get Children ready for School and help with Homework on a daily basis	2,001	1,901	Cases
No. of Husbands who help with Cleaning the house, Washing clothes, etc. on a daily basis	1,425	1,241	Separations

	Last Year	Now	
Total No. of Young & Brave Single Women	852	872	Single Women
No. of Single Women who were running Successful Businesses Last Year	262	166	Business Women
No. of Single Women who are still running those Businesses	224	154	Business Women
No. of Single Women who Stopped running their Businesses	27	12	Failed Businesses
No. of New Single Women who have Started Businesses This Year	37	30	New Business

Indicator 2 : Women Compensated for Unpaid Domestic Work through Carbon Revenues

A total of 9,566 Biogas Units have been built for as many End User families and another 2,340 are under construction. These Units have and are being built under the world's first 2 Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects registered with the UNFCCC.

	Villages	Active CSU Members		Inactive Families		Non CSU Families		Participating Families	
Biogas Units Built	546	3,731	39%	1,286	13%	4,549	48%	9,566	100%
Under Construction	186	183	8%	324	14%	1,833	78%	2,340	100%

ADATS and the Coolie Sangha have reflected on the fact that 54% of the Biogas units have been/are being built for Non-CSU families. Many are not even from villages with Coolie Sangha Units. Though we have followed strict procedures to ensure that these Non-CSU End Users are selected on the recommendation of nearby CSUs and the Cluster/GP Meet they fall under, what is the *raison d'être* and what will be the consequences? We realise that construction, maintenance and monitoring will not be as smooth as in CSU villages. Even the communication of Purpose to every single End User will not be easy.

After much deliberation we have come to the conclusion that if we are not able to expand the benefits of pro-poor technologies implemented with carbon revenues to neighbouring villages in our own district, then we certainly do not have the authority to give leadership to a Network that attempts to do so nation-wide, all over India.

In short, we have no choice but to develop processes that make the construction of these Biogas Units as successful in Non-CSU villages as in those with CSUs.

Indicator 3 : Equal Decision Making Role Enjoyed within Families

A feeling Powerlessness has dropped by 84% when compared to last year, in spite of the same number of women who reported that they could not openly stand by their daughters when it came to choice in marriage.

Bad Health has also dropped by 24%.

But Poverty seems to have increased, even if we “adjust” last year’s figure.

	Last Year	Now	
Cases of Women who have no say in their Family Expenses, Loans, etc. (Powerlessness Indicator)	410	52	Cases
Cases of Women who expressed they could not support their Daughters in their choice of marriage	102	85	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	88	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	13	Women

Indicator 4 : All Forms of Domestic Violence (Physical & Mental) Tracked and Stopped

Insofar as the reporting and tackling of domestic violence, there seems to be no improvement. The same number of cases got reported and very same number was stopped. There doesn’t appear to be any movement towards wiping out the scourge...

	Last Year	Now	
Cases of Domestic Violence reported during this year	211	161	Cases
Cases of Domestic Violence Stopped	183	154	Cases
Husbands and Wives Separated on advice of Mahila Meeting	30	-	Separations
Legal Divorces obtained during the past one year	6	2	Divorces

Indicator 5 : Positive Trends in Coolie Women’s Health

There appears to have been a baby boom last year with a 30% increase in childbirths when compared to the year before. Alongside was a three-fold increase in the number of deaths.

The number of village birthing conducted by Village Health Workers dropped by 72% indicating a lack of faith in their ability. There was a corresponding increase of 55% in the number of births at government and private hospitals. The huge increase in mother/child deaths could possibly be an indicator of callousness at that level.

Similarly, a 35% drop in the number of young mothers who underwent irreversible family planning operation after just 1 child.

The drop of 18% in the number of women who underwent the operation after 3 or more children could be explained away by the statement that “all of them had got operated in the previous years...”. But when we look at all the Indicators together, the malaise seems to be deeper.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Child births that took place in the past 1 year	857	866	Births
No. of Child births conducted by the VHW in the Village	275	168	Village Births
No. of Child births conducted in Govt and Pvt. Hospitals	577	698	Hospital Births
No of Mother and/or Child Deaths during Child birth during the past 1 year	11	25	Deaths
No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 1 Child	120	61	Women
No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 2 Children	370	278	Women
No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 3 or more Children	124	79	Women

3 : SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES ADOPTED

Indicator 1 : No Migration Due to Destitution

In spite of a general economic worsening, forced migration and destitution of those left behind has come to zero.¹

	Last Year	Now	
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

Indicator 2 : No Temptation Sale of Coolie Lands, Lured by Fancy Prices

Mortgaging lands for loans has hugely increased by 44%, indicating a thirst for capital even in the Coolie caste-class. But outright sale has dropped by 49% and attempted selling by 76%.

Taken together, it is clear that the Coolie Sangha is swimming against the currents of major economic push and pull forces. It is to be seen for how long they will be able to do so.

¹ Please read the 7th Effects Monitoring Report to see the distinction that Member Coolies make between forced and choice migration.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Coolie Families who Mortgaged their Lands to <i>Ryots</i> under Bhogyam in the past 1 year	10	19	Mortgages
No. of Coolie Families who actually sold their lands during the past 1 year	50	20	Cases
No. of Coolie Families who attempted to sell their lands during the past 1 year	16	3	Cases

4 : COOLIE FAMILIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Indicator 1 : Petty Business Ventures Become Profitable

There is a 42% increase in the number of Coolie Youth who are in self employed business units when compared to last year, in spite of only 90% of these units still running successfully.

But there is a six-fold increase in the number of new self employed business units that have started up with Coolie Sangha support this year.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Self-Employed Business Units that were running Successfully Last Year	154	102	Units
No. of Youth who were in those Self-Employed Business Units Last Year	431	477	Youth
No of those Self-Employed Business Units that are still running Successfully Today	145	102	Units
No. of New Self-Employed Business Units that have Started this Year	3	14	Units

Indicator 2 : Family Savings & Assets Built Up

The number of new assets purchased by Coolie families has dropped by 19%, but their value is much higher with a 52% increase in the type of assets bought.

	Last Year	Now	
Average Family Savings in Bank Account	1,011	1,100	Rupees
No. of New Assets (Land, House & Cattle) Purchased by Member Coolie Families	664	422	Cases
Total Value of New Assets Purchased	22,990,310	27,242,000	Rupees

6 : COOLIE YOUTH

Indicator 1 : Coolie Youth Obtain City Jobs

There is a 22% increase in the number of Youth in city jobs, and 5% increase when we look at girls alone.

There is a 9% increase in those who gave up and came back from city jobs, and a 29% drop in those who tried to start their own businesses after coming back.

At the same time, with so many Coolie children successfully completing school, there is an 83% increase in the number of youth who are not in city jobs after finishing school.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Schooled-completed Youth who are in City Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	1,117	1,061	Youth
No. of Girls among them who are in City Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	299	245	Girls
No. of School-completed Youth who are NOT in Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	1,344	1,915	Youth
No. of Youth who came back from City Jobs after 3-6 months and are now Unemployed	190	161	Youth
No. of Youth who came back from City Jobs and started their Own Businesses in the Village	58	32	Youth

Indicator 2 : Marriage Age Pushed Above Legal Minimum

There is a 12% increase in the total number of marriage-age girls in the village CSUs, and yet all the numbers indicate a terrific progress in what sociologists term a core indicator!

There is a 29% increase in the number of girls in college, 40% increase in those at jobs, 93% drop in those doing petty businesses, and 19% drop in those at home, just waiting to get married.

There is a 28% increase in the number of under-age marriages that were stopped, but a doubling of those that could not be.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Marriage-age Girls (over 18 years)	1,498	1,310	Girls
No of Marriage-age Girls who are in College	638	642	Girls
No. of Marriage-age Girls who are in Jobs	225	245	Girls
No of Marriage-age Girls who are doing Petty Businesses	39	2	Girls
No. of Marriage-age Girls who are at Home	608	421	Girls
No. of Attempts at Under-age Marriages Stopped	6	6	Cases
No. of Under-age Marriages that could not be Stopped	2	3	Cases

7 : NEW FORM OF UNITY THAT PRESERVES MEMBER PARTICIPATION & CONCEPT OF REPRESENTATION EVOLVED BY COOLIE SANGHA

Indicator 1 : Steady CSU Membership, Year after Year

CSU Membership (as on 31 March 2011)

	Villages	Active CSU Members		Inactive Families		Pop Cover	Non CSU Families		Participating Families		Extended Cover
Functioning CSUs	461	11,639	100%	13,226	47%	24%	4,005	44%	15,644	75%	32%
Dropped out CSUs	441	-	-	14,890	53%	-	1,190	13%	1,190	6%	3%
Non CSU Villages	223	-	-	-	-	-	3,948	43%	3,948	19%	22%
Total	1,125	11,639	100%	28,116	100%	11%	9,143	100%	20,782	100%	20%

Indicator 2 : CSU Members Stay United during Elections

The Coolie Sangha did not directly participate in any local body elections during this reporting period. However, they supported "clean" candidates for Taluk and Gram Panchayat elections in December 2010. All Coolie Sangha supported candidates lost.

This resulted in serious introspection and fundamental change in the structure and functioning at the village level.

Indicator 4 : Regular & Disciplined Village Meetings

	Last Year	Now	
No. of CSUs who held Regular weekly Meetings	205	262	CSUs
No. of Mahila Meetings who held Regular weekly Meetings	240	331	Mahila Meetings
No. of Cluster Meets held regularly with quorum in the past 1 year	1,828	80	Cluster Meets

Indicator 5 : Unification Across Caste Lines

Caste composition of CSU Members (as on 31 March 2011)

	Active CSU Members		Inactive Families		Ethnic Cover	Non CSU Families		Participating Families		Extended Ethnic Cover
SC	4,109	35%	11,536	41%	13%	1,734	19%	5,843	28%	18%
ST	1,740	15%	4,136	15%	12%	1,036	11%	2,776	13%	19%
BCM - A	2,171	19%	5,565	20%	10%	1,464	16%	3,635	17%	18%
BCM - B	3,413	29%	6,162	22%	11%	4,788	52%	8,201	39%	26%
General	206	2%	717	3%	7%	121	1%	327	2%	11%
Total	11,639	100%	28,116	100%	11%	9,143	100%	20,782	100%	20%

The number of marriages that took place last year, when compared to “adjusted” figures for the year before, stays the same. So does the number of simple marriages.

There is an 8% drop in the number of grand marriages, indicating some common sense, but a huge drop of 78% in those that were registered with the authorities.

There is an 18% increase in the number of inter-caste marriages and, more importantly, 42% increase in those where the groom was from a lower caste.

	Last Year	Now	
No. of Marriages that took place in the past 1 Year	829	650	Marriages
No. of Simple Marriages in Village Temples and in front of Houses	626	502	Marriages
No. of Marriages performed according to Rituals and in Marriage Halls	198	142	Marriages
No. of Marriages Registered with the Sub Registrar	35	6	Marriages
No. of Inter-Caste Marriages that took place in the past 1 year	13	12	Marriages
No. of Inter-Caste Marriages where Girl was from Upper Caste	9	10	Marriages
No. of Inter-Caste Marriages where Boy was from Upper Caste	4	2	Marriages
No. of Hindu-Muslim marriages without any Conversion	1	1	Marriages

2.4. What other observations did you make? Please mention anything that may be enlightening for the progress of the project. Provide case stories if any in the annexure.

Please see the sections titled “Nuanced Understanding” in the annexed 7th Effects Monitoring Report.

2.5. In case that you observed any direct negative outcome, please describe.

None

- 2.6. Could you say impact (positive or negative) be observed in the wider context of the project that might be related to the project intervention? Do those observed facts contribute to achieving the development goal?

It is very difficult for us to answer this question. That is why we had requested that an Impact Assessment be made with qualified external consultants. However, this has been converted into a mandatory evaluation due to EED's internal reasons. We will, however, wait to see if such an evaluation can also be useful to us to answer the Impact questions and, if necessary, make necessary changes.

- 2.7. Which methods did you use for assessing outcome and impact?

This is the 7th 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.

Please see the annexed Effects Monitoring Report for details on how we conducted this exercise.

3. ACTIVITIES

*Give a summary of the major activities carried out during the reporting period in comparison with those planned. Please follow the logic of the different components. If applicable report on specified activities for men and women respectively.
(in case of more than one objective, give the activities separately for each component)*

The annexed 7th Effects Monitoring Report gives details on each activity taken up to achieve these objectives. Below, please find a summary.

1. COOLIE FAMILIES FULLY ACCESS ALL STATE WELFARE & TRANSFERS

- Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)
- Other Issues & Struggles
- Legal Aid & Aid Distress

2. COOLIE WOMEN ATTAIN A PERSON STATUS WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES

- Mahila Meetings
- Women's Committee Members
- Women in the Coolie Sangha
- Training
- Health Activities
- Biogas CDM Projects
 - The ADATS/Velcan Bagepalli Biogas CDM Project
 - Biogas CDM Project of the BCS
- Woodstoves CDM Project

3. SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES ADOPTED

- A/R CDM Project

4. COOLIE FAMILIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Coolie Credit Funds (CCFs)

5. COOLIE CHILDREN

In January 2011, a thorough Effects Monitoring was conducted by ADATS Staff and Balakendra Teachers. Please see this document at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book4/0420/>

6. COOLIE YOUTH

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

- Income Declaration, Sangha Tax payment & Membership Renewal
- Sangha Funds
- Membership Strength & Coverage
- CSU & Mahila Meetings, Taluk CS Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings
- Providing leadership to the Fair Climate Network

4. CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATION

Did any important events or changes during the reporting period take place within the organisation:

4.1. related to management structure? ~~Yes~~ No

if Yes, please describe:

4.2. related to planning system? ~~Yes~~ No

if Yes, please describe:

4.3. related to staff composition? ~~Yes~~ No

if Yes, please describe:

4.4. related to other issues? Yes ~~No~~

if Yes, please describe:

When drawing up this 10 year Strategic Plan through an honest, elaborate and self critical exercise in late 2008, we identified the foundational Cause for the Focal Problem as a general weakening of unity and discipline in the village CSUs. We said this was because overworked ADATS Field Staff and elected Coolie Sangha Functionaries had got themselves distanced from Member Coolie families. This had resulted in token membership and a programme mentality, fluctuating CSU membership, irregular meetings held only at times of need, etc.

Our entire 10 year Strategic Plan was designed to correct these weaknesses. In our 6th Effects Monitoring Report, a year back, we reported on progress made in that direction. Obviously, we hadn't done enough and the problem hit with a vengeance.

In the last days of 2010, the Coolie Sangha suffered a severe sociopolitical setback when all the candidates supported by village CSUs lost in Taluk and Zilla Panchayat elections. Serious and self-critical introspection took place at all levels of the Coolie Sangha to ferret the reasons behind this debacle.

We realised that a deep complacence had set in through a concentration of administrative and political power through a 11 year long spell of continuous victory in all local body elections. ADATS Staff and senior Coolie Sangha functionaries had taken matters for granted. Worse still, we had been blind to negative developments like petty corruption and bossism that had developed in the polity of our allies.

Several hard organisational decisions were taken in early 2011:

- ADATS Field Workers and Mahila Trainers accepted that their only job, for the next 6 months, would be to go to the villages and re-establish an intimacy with each and every Member Coolie family.
- Each individual in the village CSU would be encouraged to express her views, criticism and dissatisfaction. She would then be requested to state her expectations – i.e. where she felt the Coolie Sangha had failed her and what she wanted.
- The very next morning, Field Workers and Mahila Trainers would receive the aggrieved person at the Taluk Headquarters and sort out her problem – be it timely financial assistance from the Sangha Fund without procedural delays, representation at a government office, or whatever.

Our digitized monitoring solution, *InfoNeeds*[®], was modified to permit the monitoring of Sangha Fund expenditure at the village, GP, Area and Taluk levels.

- The erstwhile Clusters, which comprised just 5-6 village CSUs, were reorganised to cover an entire Gram Panchayat. This brought the administrative units of the Coolie Sangha in tune with that of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The new “Cluster” therefore refers to a much larger number of villages and is synonymous with “Gram Panchayat”.
- The current Cluster Secretaries and Women’s Committee Members would resign, *en mass*, and the expanded Cluster/GP would select new functionaries after a few months.
- The new Clusters/GPs would develop closer contact and working relationships with Gram Panchayat officials and functionaries.
- The Biogas CDM Project of the BCS, which was hitherto run as a separate and independent executive wing would immediately be amalgamated into the Area Teams. Biogas Case Workers would henceforth work together with Area Field Workers and Mahila Trainers.

Member Coolie families responded with a few decisions of their own.

- Village CSUs, who are the final authority on membership related matters, would screen Income Declaration, Sangha Tax payment and Membership renewal very strictly, even if it meant a big loss in membership in 2011.²
- Special efforts would be made to bring back the core values and ideology of the Coolie Sangha which, they felt, had got diluted over the years when the Coolie Sangha enjoyed absolute power.

² They came up with a revealing analogy. The Coolie Sangha, they declared, was like a Temple. A temple was the house of God and remained so even if no worship took place and not a single devotee visited. It didn’t matter if the membership strength of the Coolie Sangha dropped to zero. It still enjoyed a powerful existence and would remain a Primary Social Institution that would, in due course, get revived.

5. CHANGES IN DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS

5.1. Are there important changes in the direct political environment since the inception of the project:

~~Yes~~ No

5.2. Are there important changes in the direct social environment since the inception of the project:

~~Yes~~ No

5.3. Are there important changes in the direct natural environment since the inception of the project:

~~Yes~~ No

5.4. Do those changes have implications for the relevance of the project?

~~Yes~~ No

5.5. Do those changes have implications for the project's development goal?

~~Yes~~ No

5.6. Do those changes have implications for the project's objective?

~~Yes~~ No

5.7. Is the underlying problem analysis of the project still valid?

Yes ~~No~~

6. CONCLUSIONS FOR THE FUTURE WORK

6.1. Based on your experience, do you see a need for changing the planned activities in order to achieve your project objectives?

Yes ~~No~~

If Yes, why?

Save the Children, New Zealand (SCNZ) had been providing top-up support for the largely self-financed Children's Programme of the Coolie Sangha since 1997. In the current 3 year consortium programme they had made a commitment of ₹ 29 million. But they took a unilateral decision to close shop in New Zealand and remitted only ₹ 12.4 million (43%). Even this was due to Herculean pressure from their Indian counterpart, Save the Children, Bal Raksha. SCBR insisted that formal commitments made, especially to channelize NZ government funds, should be honoured.

This caused some consternation but the Coolie Sangha decided they would continue the activity without let or hindrance and spent ₹ 14.2 million from their Sangha Funds. It was already in the approved budget that 9% of the total expenditure would be financed by the Coolie Sangha itself.

Sanctioned Budget for the 3 year Consortium Programme

EED, Germany	29,770,000.00	10%
Icco, the Netherlands	28,651,805.00	9%
SCNZ, New Zealand	7,442,400.00	2%
NZ Government	21,596,250.00	7%
Carbon Investor	188,107,045.10	62%
Sangha Funds	26,292,500.00	9%

Total	₹ 301,860,000.10	100%
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In actual reality, double the amount of Sangha Funds were used to meet programme expenses.

Audited Expenditure Statement as on 31 March 2011

	Foreign Donors		Carbon Investor		Sangha Funds	
PROGRAMME COSTS						
Community Organisation	3,695,032	6%			-	
Dry Land Horticulture	9,994,277	16%			3,202,690	5%
Health, Legal Aid, Stipends & Disposition Fund	264,296	0%			4,177,311	7%
15,000 Biogas Units	-		16,772,787	26%		
Coolie Children	6,616,957	10%			5,241,870	8%
Coolie Youth	2,979,389	5%			55,500	0%
Programme Staff	6,280,403	10%			-	
COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATION						
Central Staff	838,900	1%			-	
Vehicle Maintenance & Administrative Costs	3,997,110	6%			1,100	0%
Total	34,666,363	54%	16,772,787	26%	12,678,471	20%

6.2. [If necessary, please update the project planning:](#)

It was decided that the 3 year budget would be recast to show only Icco and EED and Icco contributions. We are in the process of doing so with FMSf and the Finance Desk of EED.

6.3. [In case of need for consultancy: In what area?](#)

6.4. [What are the lessons learned? Please refer to gender equality issues also.](#)