

# Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS), Bagepalli

## Project No: 20120329 G

### Activity Report for Oct '14 to Mar '15

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#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Organisation	Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS)
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Project Title	Coolie Sangha Building in Chickballapur District
Project No:	20120329 G
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Reporting Period	From 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2014 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
Date of Report	16 June 2015
Author	Ram Esteves

#### 2. CHANGES WITHIN THE ORGANISATION

##### 2.1. RELATED TO MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

None

##### 2.2. RELATED TO YOUR PLANNING SYSTEM

None

##### 2.3. RELATED TO THE COMPOSITION OF YOUR STAFF

None

##### 2.4. RELATED TO OTHER ISSUES

None

### 3. CHANGES OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGIC PROJECT CONTEXT

#### 3.1. IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE PROJECT'S IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT SINCE ITS INCEPTION

There has been a general improvement when compared to the near crisis situation we faced 2 years back. Sociopolitical presence has improved and spirits are high.

#### 3.3. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK, PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND ACHIEVEMENT

None

### 4. OUTCOME AND IMPACT

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

**Coolie Sangha continues to provide Identity & Protect Freedom of 11.525 small and poor peasant families in the face of New Age Problems in 471 villages of Chickballapur district by December 2015.**

For a full description of all the Activities and Outputs that lead to achieving this Project Objective, please see our 10<sup>th</sup> Effects Monitoring Report at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book9/0906/>

#### INDICATOR I

**Strong Sociopolitical Presence in 85% of villages with Coolie Sangha, ensuring good governance in 57 Gram Panchayats and all cases of corruption & leakage in pro-poor schemes challenged.**

##### *a. Income Declaration, Sangha Tax payment & Membership Renewal*

Every year, in December, those who wish to renew their membership in the village Coolie Sangha declare their family income in an open and transparent manner, in front of all others who wish to continue their membership. This takes the whole of December, every year. The following month, in January, they pay an agreed upon percentage of these declared Incomes as Sangha Tax. This is called the Membership Renewal process.

Because of this procedure, even under normal circumstances, Coolie Sangha membership fluctuates. We interpret this as a healthy symptom of “staying alive”.

But under special circumstances, such fluctuations can be turbulent. This is what happened 2 years back, in Bagepalli and Gudibanda Taluks. Please see our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Effects Monitoring Reports at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book3/0337/> and <http://www.adats.com/documents/book9/0904/> for a candid and self critical description. ADATS had correctly predicted that what happened in Bagepalli and Gudibanda was “waiting to happen” in the other 3 Taluks.

In 2015, overall membership dropped by a further 12% from 9,136 families in the previous year, to 8,079 families. The number of villages also dropped from 393 to 364. This entire loss happened in Chickballapur, Siddalaghatta and Chintamani Taluks. As we had predicted, Bagepalli Taluk saw a revival with a 15% *increase* in membership from 1,604 to 1,849 families. When elaborating on the next sub Indicator on Coolie Sangha Meetings, we will explain why.

*b. Coolie Sangha Meetings*

	<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
No. of CSUs	393 (100%)	364 (100%)
No. of CSUs who held Regular weekly Meetings	185 (47%)	152 (42%)
No. of CSUs who do not held Regular weekly Meetings	208 (53%)	212 (58%)
No. of Mahila Meetings	393 (100%)	364 (100%)
No. of Mahila Meetings who held Regular weekly Meetings	211 (54%)	183 (50%)
No. of Mahila Meetings who do not held Regular weekly Meetings	182 (46%)	181 (50%)
No. of Cluster/GP Meets held regularly with quorum in the past year	30	28

The regularity of weekly CSU and Mahila Meetings has dropped this past year. ADATS field staff mistakenly identified this as the *Cause* for a general weakening of the sociopolitical presence of the Coolie Sangha. On reflection, we realised that it was an *Effect* caused by the emergence of other (parochial) Identities.

When we first built up the Coolie Sangha, 37 years back, the rural population had just 2 class Identities that subsumed all other – *Ryots* (big and middle peasants) and *Coolies* (small and poor peasants). Every other Identity giving social institution waned before this all prevailing feudal classification. Along with community organisation and conscientisation, the sheer force of utter destitution kept the Coolie case-class together. Today, this is no longer the case. In a small part because of freedoms gained through the Coolie Sangha, but largely because of the transformation in the wider political economy, people now have multiple Identities. Caste, Community and other parochial Identities have surfaced with *laissez faire*.

We need to respond in an appropriate manner, relevant to the changed times. Deep discussions need to take place in the village CSU Meetings, with 3 questions honestly answered:

- i. Whether they wish to develop their individuality, person status and self interest?
- ii. Whether they can do so by themselves, without community support?
- iii. Whether such community support needed for personal development and individualism can indeed be provided by parochial social institutions like caste, religion, party affiliation, etc.

Or, is it necessary to take a sober look at the core tenets of their strategy of yore; the one that proved that if people with near identical problems get together, they stand a good chance at solving those problems. Be these confronting corruption, low wages, depressed prices for their produce, obtaining credit, domestic violence, lack of status, fighting discrimination, or whatever.

Member Coolie families have to themselves make the choice. Should they opt for the latter, they have to recognise the Coolie Sangha as a primary Identity giver, even as they enjoy multiple identities. Regular getting together (in weekly or fortnightly CSU and Mahila Meetings) will then become the natural Result in the Means ⇒ End logic.

### *c. Sangha Funds*

Sangha Funds have been built up by 36,604 Member Coolie families from 857 villages, over the past 21 years, with no “external moneys”. Sangha Funds are entirely and solely contributed by Member Coolie families themselves.

No money paid into any single village CSU is, under any circumstance, transferred or used by another CSU. Sangha Funds are spent by the village CSUs on a number of activities – scholarships for needy children, running a reproductive and referral health programmes, providing legal aid and aid distress, paying bus fares and stipends to elected functionaries, etc.

Unspent balances at the end of each financial year are placed in Fixed Deposits, in names of the respective village CSUs. These form the decentralised corpus of the Coolie Sangha. Interest earned from these thousands of FDs go to their respective village CSU bank account in order to add to the current year’s income. As a result, each village CSU typically has Sangha Tax collection of that year, plus interest earned from their 20+ Fixed Deposits.

As on 31 March 2015 the total Sangha Fund balances stood at ₹ 80.32 million – a 11% increase over last year’s balance. But Fixed Deposits dropped by 4%. This is because, due to Icco’s sudden pull out from the current ongoing BfdW programme, Sangha Funds are being used to support nearly half the total programme budget.

### *d. Membership Strength & Coverage*

ADATS works in a total of 1,252 villages, of which the Coolie Sangha covers 908 villages. The remaining 344 are villages where we have constructed Biogas units for non-CSU families.

Let us first look at the active and functioning village CSUs:

- There are 8,079 Active Member families in 364 villages. They comprise 19% of the population of these villages.
- These same villages have 12,165 Inactive families who have not declared their 2014 Incomes, paid Sangha Tax and renewed membership in 2015. They comprise 29% of the population.
- Finally, there are 3,970 non-CSU families who avail benefits from the 2 CDM Projects that ADATS and the Coolie Sangha implement. They comprise another 9% of the population of these 364 villages with functioning CSUs.

The total coverage of ADATS in 364 villages with functioning Coolie Sangha Units is therefore very high at 57% of the population.

In the dropped out villages where CSUs once functioned, coverage is 46%. In villages without any village CSUs, it is 23%. Overall, in the 5 Taluks of Chickballapur District, ADATS has a coverage of 44% of the total population.

Our algorithms calculate that ADATS and the Coolie Sangha together have a combined sociopolitical presence of 22% in the district.

Perhaps after 37 years we need to accept that a smaller and more committed membership, which refuses to compromise on the basic tenets of the Coolie Sangha, is what is now needed. If each village CSU has a few women and men who staunchly defend the core values, are capable of making sound analytical judgement and, at the same time, carry the flock forward, we will have a different type of structure, functioning and an altered discipline. Quite naturally, such transformation will not happen overnight. For it to be an effective progression from where we are today, it will take several years.

In the meanwhile, the more prosaic needs of the general Coolie caste-class can be taken care of by the Producer Company they are forming. In order to collectively sell their Carbon Offsets or chemical free farm produce, End User families do not really need an

ideologically committed Coolie Sangha. But in order to ensure efficient and democratic functioning of the Producer Company, the Coolie Sangha is a must.

These are the discussions that need to take place in the coming years, in each and every village.

*e. Unification across Caste lines*

ADATS works with 54,792 families, of whom 8,079 are currently active in the village CSUs, 32,515 are inactive, and 14,198 are non-Coolie Sangha families.

- Among the Active Member families, Ethnic Cover is almost the same, across all castes and communities. This means that the same percentage of poor, irrespective of the caste or community they belong to, renewed 2015 membership in their villages CSUs.
- But when we see the Inactive Families (and the total of both), we see that the Coolie Sangha is more attractive to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the more backward among the Backward Castes & Minorities.
- But once again, when we see the Overall figures of *all* – CSU Members as well as non-Sangha families, we observe a unification of all castes and communities.

These numbers, steady and unchanging over the past 2 decades, irrefutably prove that a larger unification has indeed taken place where Membership is concerned. However, when examining the earlier Indicator on regularity of meetings, we found that such a unification is weakening. These are the paradoxes we face when organising the poor.

*f. Execution of Corruption Free NREGA Works for 100 days every year*

MGNREGA

	<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
No. of MGNREGA Works planned from April 2014 to March 2015	1,388	1,279
No. of MGNREGA Works done from April 2014 to March 2015	1,272	1,053
No. of MGNREGA Works not done from April 2014 to March 2015	116	226
Total No. of Days as entitlement	100	150
Average No. of Days of MGNREGA Works obtained from April 2014 to March 2015	42	64
Average No. of Days of MGNREGA Works lost April 2014 to March 2015	58	86
Total MGNREGA Wages Paid out from April 2014 to March 2015	₹ 3,41,80,598	₹ 2,82,77,000
No. of Cases where MGNREGA Wages were paid after protests, strikes & struggles	13	20
No. Of families applied for Job Cards this year	9,127	8,079
No. of Families who have MGNREGA Job Cards today	9,127	8,079
No. of Families who do not have MGNREGA Job Cards today	-	-

Members showed interest towards MGNREGA because there was no other work during drought. They built common assets like roads, check dams, farm ponds, threshing platforms, drains and playgrounds. 685 toilets and 74 backyard cow/sheep sheds were built. About 70% of the MGNREGA fund was used for this.

Most of the protests were made to speed up the payments for toilet construction. Two Major protests at Taluk level were made at Chintamani and Siddalaghatta Taluks to give

preference to labour intensive works under MGNREGA. Apart from this overarching demand, each Gram Panchayat had its own specific demand.

Political touts and contractors are exploiting members and getting their job cards. Even a few CSU Members have found a way to get easy money without doing any work.

#### Public Distribution System (Ration Shops)

	<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
Total No. of Families	9,127	8,079
No. of Families who have Ration Cards	8,946	8,012
No. of Families who do not have any Ration Cards	181	67
No. of Families who have APL Ration Card	250	477
No. of Families who have BPL Ration Cards	8,696	7,535
Total No. Of Ration Shops	165	167
No. Of Ration Shops running without corruptions	136	167
No. Of Ration Shops running with little corruption	29	-
Cases of protests, strikes & struggles to run the Ration Shop	10	-

Over the years, CSU Members have obtained all mandatory documents to avail benefits of PDS. Each and every Member is aware of details. Ration Shop dealers operated with some fear and caution.

While the PDS is definitely contributing to food security, an overt dependence on charity may kill self respect and the drive to enterprise.

#### *g. Obtaining Government Benefits*

##### Pensions

	<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
No. of Persons who applied for Old Age Pensions (OAP) from Govt. this year	679	296
Total no. of Persons who are now getting OAP	1,941	2,189
No. of Persons who are not getting OAP	134	48
No. of Women who applied to govt. For Widow Pensions this Year	53	28
Total no. of Women who are getting Widow Pensions	715	763
No. of Women who are not getting Widow Pensions	2	10
No. of Persons who applied for Physically Challenged Pension this year	41	-
Total no. of Persons who are now getting these Pensions	315	327
No. Of Persons who are not getting these Pensions	3	-

About 40% senior citizens are deserted by their children. They were mainly dependent on Old Age Pensions for their survival. The remaining 60% think it's their right and entitlement to get pensions, because they fit criteria fix by the government.

Field Workers & Mahila Trainers played a vital role in supporting widowed women to get necessary documents required for their pension. As a result all 28 widows are now getting pension.

The Association for People with Disability (APD) has been active in the district to ensure that all physically challenged persons get their pensions and other benefits on time.

## Houses

	<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
No. of Families living in Bad Houses	837	400
No. of Families who got Free Houses sanctioned in the past 1 year	510	235
No. of Families applied who did not get Free Houses sanctioned in the past 1 year	327	165
No. of Families	9,127	8,079
No. of families with electricity	9,127	8,079
No. of families who are eligible for free electrification	476	369
No. of Families who now live in Huts & Thatched Houses, and genuinely need houses	327	165

Most of the members were benefitted through Government free housing scheme. Only 3% were unfortunate and didn't get houses through the newly introduced lucky draw scheme. As we have mentioned in the earlier reports, the free electrification scheme has stopped.

## Other Government Works

	<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
No. of Government Works approved	620	478
Budget Allocated for all these Works	₹ 8,57,00,000	₹ 7,45,30,000
Actual Amount Spent on these Works	₹ 4,27,80,000	₹ 4,25,00,000.
No. of Works done without any corruption	231	271
No. of Works done with a little Corruption	227	84
No. of Works done with a Lot of Corruption	162	123

Works such as construction of water tanks, school compounds, village roads and drainage works are labour intensive and need the active involvement of villagers. Quality is maintained and the allotted budget is spent. These are the works that are done without or with little corruption.

Details on contractor works such as tank de-silting, asphaltting roads, bridges are not disclosed to the public. Therefore there is a lot of corruption in the execution of these works.

## INDICATOR 2

**25,000 Coolie women in 11.525 Member families enjoy respect and stature in village society, with decision making powers in the Coolie Sangha and matching status within their families**

### *a. Holding weekly in camera Mahila Meetings in 471 villages*

3,196 (40%) of Coolie Sangha memberships in all 5 Taluks are in the names of women; the vast majority of them are really the family managers in their homes. But only 552 (7%) families are genuinely single women headed – i.e. without any male adult in the household.

Tokenism is far higher in Non CSU households where woman are “placed in front to get Biogas benefits”.

	Active Member Families		Inactive Families		Non CSU Families	
Male Headed Households	7,527	93%	28,775	89%	11,927	84%
Women Headed Households	552	7%	3,734	11%	2,271	16%
CSU Membership in Men's Names	4,883	60%	21,746	67%	5,858	41%
CSU Membership in Women's Names	3,196	40%	10,763	33%	8,340	59%

The structure of the Coolie Sangha is that one woman from each household meet *in camera* on a fixed day every week. But only half the villages saw regular meetings held for the value in sitting together and expressing solidarity. In the remaining villages, Mahila Meetings were held at times of need to discuss and pass a health benefit for someone, or decide on how much scholarship should be given to a child, or to give CCF loans to buy fuel efficient Woodstoves, etc. They also met when there was an issue to be solved – domestic violence, desertion, etc.

#### *b. Division of Labour*

Local job opportunities for women are steadily on the increase. Women, especially in villages closer to small towns, will soon contribute more towards family income than their menfolk. This may not automatically result in domestic work being shared. Instead, women will face the double burden of both, earning money as well as doing housework.

There is hardly any change in the traditional division of labour in homes and this is a cause for serious concern. Husbands pitch in for different reasons like wanting their children to do better in school, because their wives find jobs in fruit/vegetable gardens, plucking grapes, and small factories that prefer a female workforce. This has little to do with a conscious decision to reduce the workload of wives.

#### *c. Health Activities*

ADATS did not conduct separate health camps in our 5 Taluk campuses. Instead, we allowed specialised hospitals from the city to conduct “their” camps where we took women with reproductive and other ailments. Though most of the organisation was done by our Mahila Trainers and Village Health Workers, this strategy resulted in reduced direct costs for us.

Special Ayurveda training camps was conducted in all Taluks by an Expert. She has trained VHWs and Biogas Workers on how to prepare syrups, ointments, balms and creams.

#### *d. Biogas CDM Project*

Unfortunately Functionality in both our Biogas CDM Projects has drastically dropped by more than 30%. Many End User families have sold their cattle for want of water and fodder, those who still have a few cows do not have enough water to fire the Biogas units. Major repairs cannot be carried out without water. The drought has extracted its price.

But there is a strong cadre of 234 young women – the Biogas Workers – who, along with our Case Workers, have kept morale alive.

5,500 End User women from our first Biogas CDM Project are eagerly waiting for the next verification to get over. Because they have successfully fulfilled their ERPA obligation with Velcan Energy, France. With this verification, after giving Velcan their share, they will get more than 20,000 GS CERs which, when monetised, will give them an average of ₹ 3,600 each.



*e. Woodstoves CDM Project*

1,006 more Coolie women took loans from their respective Coolie Credit Funds to install 2 Chulika woodstoves each in their homes. As of date, the total is 1,965 Coolie women from 179 villages. Usage days is 1,221,949 and 5,641 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e have been reduced through this CDM project.

Mahila Meetings thoroughly discussed each applicant and educated her on the proper use of these stoves before releasing the loans.

A pilot project was implemented to provide individual solar panels and lighting to 91 homes in 3 villages. Each unit contains a Solar Panel, Battery, 4 LED lights and a Mobile Charging Point. For the maintenance each family has a dumb box where they put side ₹ 5 every day.

*f. Scrutiny and Approval of Sangha Fund spending decisions by Coolie Women*

All Sangha Fund bank accounts of the mixed individual village CSUs continue to be operated by women Cheque Signatories selected by respective Mahila Meetings. Men have no say in handling the ₹ 80.32 million in Sangha Funds and ~ ₹ 6 million in village Coolie Credit Fund (CCF) bank accounts.

Legal aid, medical aid, VHW stipends, basic medicines, bus fares of CSU Representatives, children's scholarships, etc. were decided upon and spent by the Mahila Meetings.

945 CCF loans worth ₹ 3.66 million were given out by 68 village CCFs in 2014-15 (654 loans amounting to ₹ 2.95 million in the previous year). In this same period, 694 instalments worth ₹ 1.05 million were repaid in 42 villages. All these CCF loans were for Coolie women to take up climate projects.

*g. Heightened Support to inter-caste marriages and festivals*

411 Marriages were performed, 307 (75%) in simple ceremonies in front of their houses, in village temples, etc. Another 104 (25%) were more grand affairs with rituals. Not a single inter-caste marriage was performed this year, making us wonder if it is a reflection of the polarised national mood.

Due to tremendous efforts by the Mahila Meetings for more than three decades, results can be clearly seen. Girls continue with higher studies after school, and their parents fully support them. Most parents do not differentiate between daughters and sons. Girls who fail in college are not immediately shunted into the marriage market; they are encouraged to undergo skill training and get city jobs.

*h. Job Skill Training and Placement*

Field Workers & Mahila Trainers listed 150 Youth who are educated and active in the Coolie Sangha, and distributed 150 Computers given free of cost by Tech Mahindra, Bangalore. All 160 were trained for 3 days on hardware maintenance, internet, government sites with public Information and MS Office. They now act as "information centres" in their respective villages. CSU Members and others approach them to enquire on various government schemes, payments made for public works and under the MGNREGA, price of vegetables and other farm produce, etc.

Another 24 Girls were trained in driving at Accion Fraterna, Anantapur. Of them, 10 were placed as drivers in an only-women cab company in Bangalore.

Youth who stay back in their villages after schooling, take responsibility and come forward to involve themselves in Coolie Sangha activities. Youth who are working keep in touch with their families and send remittances. When they visit their families during functions and festivals, they enquire about Coolie Sangha activities, and attribute their present position and earning to Coolie Sangha support. They also influence village lifestyle in mundane as well as serious manners.

A few Youth still behave irresponsibly and are a threat to the Coolie Sangha. During elections, act as touts and agents of various political parties and damage the credibility of the Coolie Sangha.

### INDICATOR 3

#### **Precarious farming systems stabilized through adoption of Sustainable Agriculture in a low carbon growth trajectory in 471 villages.**

##### *a. Sustainable Agriculture (SA)*

SA was implemented only in 3 Taluks (Chintamani, Siddalaghatta and Chickballapur) during the 2014 Monsoon season. 93 CSUs came forward to adopt the Package of Practices (PoP) recommended by our SA Team for Ragi, Groundnut and Maize. Please see the table below for the details of selection of plots and members for 2014 Monsoon Cropping Season.

SA Case Worker	Villages	Families	Total Landholding		Discrete Plots		Selected for SA	
			Plots	Acres	Plots	Acres	Plots	SA Acres
Narayanaswamy	15	252	522	722	486	654	358	517
Bravin	19	396	769	1,512	630	1,182	522	1,034
Ramesh	28	476	879	1,889	775	1,612	678	1,366
Nagarjuna	31	687	1,341	2,556	1,236	2,295	1,029	1,795
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1,811</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>6,680</b>	<b>3,127</b>	<b>5,742</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>4,711</b>

4 SA Case Workers assisted 1,811 families in 93 villages. Unfortunately, due to drought and erratic rainfall, SA was practiced in only on 37% of the Selected Plots – i.e. 946 Plots. 796 plots (31%) were not even ploughed. On another 845 Plots (32%) SA was attempted, but the entire crop failed due to lack of rains.

Please see the table below for crop wise distribution:

Case Worker	Total Plots	Ragi (Plots)	Groundnut (Plots)	Maize (Plots)
Narayanaswamy	358	200	9	38
Bravin	522	40	56	4
Ramesh	678	129	51	3
Nagarjuna	1,029	280	43	93
	<b>2,587</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>138</b>

##### *b. Low Carbon Farming (LCF)*

For the past 3-4 years, the Fair Climate Network, in collaboration with Environmental Defense Fund, has been measuring emissions from different Main Crops in various Agro Ecological Zones (AEZ's) across India. However, EDF has not yet come up with definite numbers to propose a Methodology under VCS or the Gold Standard. But there were many positive spin offs:

- Initially our A/R CDM preparation, and then the LCF, brought in a discipline to delineate discrete plots, commit them against satellite imagery, prove land title, record soil type, gradient, etc.
- It made us develop standardised and implementable SA Package of Practices that take into account economic and ecological sustainability, as well as carbon factors.
- We started maintaining Plot Diaries to record every single agricultural operation, enter these into a specialised software solution to collate, aggregate and analyse.
- Low cost, but extremely rigorous systems allowed us to scale up operations from isolated demonstrations toward a genuine proliferation.

We therefore decided to continue with LCF for its Sustainable Agriculture (SA) value. Irrespective of whether we are able to demonstrate GHG reduction and claim Carbon Credits or not, there is value in low external input sustainable agriculture:

1. The caste-class we work with cannot afford to take the financial risk inherent in mainstream cultivation.
2. Poison free cultivation protects soil health which, in turn, promotes biodiversity and human welfare.
3. Market demand for chemical free farm produce can collectively be met through their Producer Company.
4. If and when EDF provides irrefutable numbers that are internationally accepted, SA will get 2 additional benefits:
  - a. A positive recognition and place of pride that the cultivation of our people – small and marginal farmers – is a part of the solution to Climate Change, and not a part of the problem.
  - b. Carbon revenue that will give them additional income.

However, we see this as “the icing on the cake” and are not really holding our breaths in anticipation!

#### *c. Agro Forestry*

In the previous Effects Monitoring report we had explained how we had integrated our A/R CDM activities into SA since growing farmer friendly trees is an integral part of Sustainable Agriculture. Verification by a UNFCCC registered DOE had ascertained that sequestration was over 9,000 tCO<sub>2-e</sub>

For technical as well as business reasons, we decided to convert this registered A/R CDM into Gold Standard agro-forestry project. This process is now almost completed and, after a 20% reserve kept back as required in forestry projects, 6,500 tCO<sub>2-e</sub> are ready to be issued. Monetised at a minimum rate of ₹ 850 per VER, we will be dispersing ₹ 5.5 million to 664 families who have grown trees on 1,152 acres. This will give a big boost to SA.

#### *d. End User Producer Company*

ADATS Field Workers and Mahila Trainers have a Herculean task ahead of them to educate Shareholders and Directors, on how to run their newly formed Producer Company – both, the statutory/financial requirements of regular meetings, notices, etc. as well as on the various activities that can be taken up.

E.g. Already, there are intense discussions on how Member Coolie families can pool their waste (rocky) lands and set up Solar Parks, attracting venture capital to the tune of over ₹ 80 million for each such park.

Since most of the village CSUs and other forums of the Coolie Sangha are mature and largely self governing, this is possible. Had ADATS Field Staff to attend and direct all and every village and Cluster/GP meeting, this would have been a well nigh impossible job.

As on 31 March 2015, 8,414 families from 402 villages have paid up their share capital to form the “Bagepalli Fair Climate Producer Company”. Gudibanda Taluk, which has not recovered from the reversal we suffered 2 years back, is still tardy.

A gender analysis shows that 62% of them are women and 38% men. Scheduled Castes and Tribes constitute 39% of the shareholders, the very backward castes and minorities another 16%, and slightly better off families constitute 45%.

Taluk	Villages	Shareholders	Men	Women	Caste Category				
					SC	ST	BCM-A	BCM-B	General
Bagepalli	122	1,812	666	1,146	447	284	351	715	15
Chickballapur	60	1,012	442	570	189	86	135	591	11
Chintamani	130	2,056	728	1,328	632	287	291	803	43
Siddalaghatta	64	1,173	513	660	293	117	184	572	7
Gudibanda	26	361	86	275	148	28	43	141	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>6,414</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>3,979</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>77</b>

35% of them and longstanding members of the Coolie Sangha, another 30% are in Tax paid Members for 5-10 years, and 8% are relatively new.

27% of them are non-Coolie Sangha families – those with Biogas units. Later in this Report we will argue that this is what portends to be the future of the Coolie Sangha; a relatively smaller number of core members who protect the values, tenets and principles, with others belonging to the economic body – the Producer Company.

60% of families who have paid up their Share Capital are End Users of the two Biogas CDM Projects, 17% benefit from the Woodstoves CDM, and 33% from SA efforts.

#### 4.1. CHANGES BEYOND ONES DESCRIBED ABOVE

None

#### 4.2. DIRECT NEGATIVE OUTCOME

None

#### 4.3. INCIDENTS/EVENTS OBSERVED WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO OR INTERFERE WITH ACCOMPLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT GOAL

None

#### 4.4. METHODS APPLIED TO ASSES PROJECT’S OUTCOME AND IMPACT

Over 6 weeks, from April to mid May 2015, we completed our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Effects Monitoring exercise, which was long delayed due to national elections. Please find the same at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book9/0906/>

We also continued to monitor developments in our weekly Situation Meetings held every Monday.

### 5. CONCLUSION FOR THE FUTURE WORK

#### 5.1. NEED TO CHANGE PLANNED ACTIVITIES

There is no need to change any planned activities for the remaining 9 months of this Project (6 months from the time of writing this report). But the learning that have been documented has to be taken in to consideration when planning the next 3 year phase.

## 5.2. CONSULTANCY SERVICES REQUIRED

None

## 5.3. IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNT

We anticipate that, with a perhaps smaller and committed membership, the economic wing of the Coolie Sangha, the Bagepalli Fair Climate Producer Company, will reach out to all 40,572 small and poor peasant families in 908 villages – active as well as currently dormant CSU Members. We base this expectation on the assumption that perhaps it is a strict adherence to Coolie Sangha discipline that causes dropout. Perhaps if it is only for economic benefit (*nay, their very survival in a market economy*), they will gladly participate, even though this body will function under the value based governance of the Coolie Sangha.