

Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS), Bagepalli

Project No: 20120329 G

Activity Report for April to Sept 2015

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Organisation	Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS)
Address	ADATS Campus, Bagepalli 561 207, Chickballapur District, Karnataka, India
Contact Person	Ram Esteves Project Director
Email	ram@adats.com
Project Title	Coolie Sangha Building in Chickballapur District
Project No:	20120329 G
Project Period	From 1 st January 2013 to 31 st December 2015
Reporting Period	From 1 st April to 30 th September 2015
Date of Report	24 February 2016
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*
None

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.

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. Field Workers accompany Coolie Sangha through daily visits and attendance at weekly meetings and liaison work at Taluk headquarters

Most village Coolie Sangha Units (CSUs) in Chintamani, Siddalaghatta and Chickballapur conducted weekly meeting on a regular basis. Field Workers, as their routine job to facilitate the weekly meetings, they were attending the weekly meetings on a regular basis. Few CSUs were independently running their weekly meetings without Field Workers' intervention.

In 60% of the functioning CSUs of Bagepalli and Gudibanda, Field Workers were succeeded in bringing back the discipline of conducting meeting once fortnight. Field Workers trying their level best to bring back the same discipline in remaining CSUs.

The main agendas weekly meetings conducted were Selection of Farmers and Plots under LCF, Tree survival monitoring, Children Data entry and Scholarship distribution, Biogas repair and monitoring, Wood stove CDM implementation and monitoring, Information on GP venture (Solar power plant), GP election and Awareness on dengue fever.

b. Election of 2 CSU Representatives per village every year

33 CSU representatives were changed during this reporting period. For the reasons listed below.

- | | |
|---|----|
| • In Efficient Representatives changed | 6 |
| • Old Representatives changed | 12 |
| • Representatives elected as GP members changed | 5 |
| • Representatives dishonest to Sangha Decisions changed | 10 |

c. Annual Election and orientation of 57 Cluster/GP Secretaries⁴

A total of 14 GP secretaries were selected. Of them 1 from Chickballapur Taluk and the other 13 from Bagepalli. In Bagepalli taluk of the 13 GP Secretaries, 3 were newly selected and the other 10 were reselected.

Muddenahalli GP secretary from Chickballapur was changed; he was selected as Chickballapur Coolie Sangha Secretary

d. Election of 5 Taluk Secretaries every year: alternate annually by sex

2 Taluk secretaries were changed – one from Chintamani and another from Chickballapur. The newly selected taluk secretary are 006 Ashwathamma from Chinthapalli and 009 Ramakrishnappa from Muddenahalli.

e. Conducting 471 weekly CSU Meetings

There are 364 functioning CSUs in 5 Taluks. Field Workers rated their CSUs on the basis of uniformity in conducting weekly CSU Meetings.

- Very Good 174
- Average 106
- Bad 84

f. CSU level resolution of inter-Coolie squabbles

Due to Coolie Sangha intervention 41 inter-coolie squabbles were resolved at a village level.

- House Site issue 17
- Land Issue 12
- Police Cases 5
- Petty Issues 7

g. Responsible Legal Aid & Aid Distress for land and wage struggles

An amount of Rs 181,000 was paid out to 55 Members under legal aid and aid distress:

	Cases	Amount
Legal Aid & Aid Distress	12	₹ 45,700.00
Medical Aid	43	₹ 1,35,00.00
Total	55	₹ 1,81,000.00

h. Conducting 57 weekly Cluster Meets attended by CSU Representatives and ADATS Field Staff

They are 75 Gram Panchayat's in five taluks. Of them 27 Gram Panchayats do not have too many functioning CSUs to form a quorum to conduct meetings. So there are no separate Cluster/GPs there. In the remaining 48 GPs, Cluster/GP Meets were conducted. Depending on their regularity and participation of functionaries in the meeting, Field Worker rated their GPs.

- Very Good 18
- Good 13
- Average 17

i. Scrutiny and approval of Sangha Fund spending decisions

Sangha fund is mainly used for VHW stipend, Basic Medicine Kit, Medical Aid, Legal Aid/Aid distress and Children scholarship.

For VHW stipend and monthly medical kit decision will be taken in the month of February at Mahila meetings. For the issues of medical aid and legal aid/ aid distress the decision will be taken at Mahila meeting immediately once the issue was came into notice.

Even for children scholarship decision will be taken at Mahila meeting only.

j. Scrutiny and approval of CCF Decisions

During this reporting period, CSUs used CCF mainly for Wood stove CDM project. Through CCF 9 CSUs and 137 women were all able to start up carbon trading at their home.

An amount Rs 3,300 has given out as a loan to each woman to become the end user of the energy CDM project. After the clearance off loan, revenue will be the directly credited in the bank account of end user

k. Monitoring programme implementation

ADATS/Coolie Sangha uses an intranet called InfoNeeds which supports secondary stakeholders to monitor and analyse their work done in field and it also helps them to produce better results to their primary stake holders. All ADATS staff is capacitated to use this digital tool accurately.

l. Conducting 2-day Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings every month, attended by CS Functionaries and ADATS Staff

Bagepalli Coolie Sangha had decided to conduct taluk coolie Sangha meetings once in two months. Hence 3 taluk meetings were conducted instead of 6.

The main agendas of the Taluk meetings conducted were Taluk Secretary selection, Information on climate change and digital revolution, Health Camps, Woodstove CDM implementation and monitoring, Selection of Farmers and Plots for LCF(SA), Tree survival monitoring, Children Data entry and Scholarship distribution, Biogas repair and monitoring, Information on GP venture (Solar power plant) and GP election.

m. Taluk Coolie Sangha decisions implemented by respective fortnightly Executive Committee Meetings

6 Executive committee meetings were conducted in 3 Taluks (Chintamani, Siddalaghatta and Chickballapur). Most of the decisions taken in the Taluk meetings were accepted and implemented by executive committee. For example active participation of CSU members in GP election

n. Village-wise allocation of decentralised budgets/ top-up grants

In Bagepalli Taluk, Two CSUs were short of Sangha fund to support children's education programme. A top up grant of Rs.35, 100 was given out to these two CSUs to issue scholarship to the school children.

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

No major protest /strikes were made. But they were some issues of corruption which were solved by the intervention of CSU without much hassles

Number of MGNREGA Works planned from April 2015 to Sep 2015 (Work Includes even the individual works such as Toilets, Back Yard sheep shed and Cattle shed)	493
Number of MGNREGA Works done from April 2015 to Sep 2015 (Work Includes even the individual works Toilets, Back Yard sheep yard, Cattle shed)	367
Number of MGNREGA Works not done from April 2015 to Sep 2015	126
Total Number of Days as entitlement	150
Average Number of Days of MGNREGA Work obtained from April 2015 to Sep 2015	40
Average Number of Days of MGNREGA Work lost April 2015 to Sep 2015	110
Total MGNREGA Wages Paid out from April 2015 to Sep 2015	Rs 2,77,92,600
Number of Cases where MGNREGA Wages were paid after protests, strikes & struggles	-
Total No. of CSU Families	8,079
No. of families applied for Job Cards April 2015 to Sep 2015	8,079
Number of Families who have NREGA Job Cards today	8,079
Number of Families who do not have NREGA Job Cards today	-

p. Obtaining govt. pensions for old and disabled as per the Baseline Surveys

Pensions

	Applied	Sanctioned	Under Process
Old Age Pensions	142	112	30
Physically Challenged Pension	1	1	-
Widow Pensions	26	10	16
Total	169	123	46

Houses

	Applied	Sanctioned	Cancelled	Built
Bagepalli	56	56	0	56
Chickballapur	27	23	4	23
Siddalaghatta	80	60	20	60
Chintamani	20	15	5	15
Gudibanda	23	23	0	23
Total	206	177	29	177

Children

Parents and Children were much aware of these benefits, as it was continuous benefits from the government from past 8 years. This academic year, Mahila Trainers just followed up whether children got free books and clothes or not. They found almost all schools distributed books and clothes in time

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

There are 364 Mahila Meetings in Five taluks. Mahila meetings are much disciplined in conducting meeting than the CSU. Same as CSU meetings Field Workers rated their MMs on their regularity in conducting meetings and also active participation of women in MMs.

- Very Good 225
- Average 99
- Bad 40

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

The basic medicine kit will be procured and distributed by Mahila trainers depending on the necessity and requirement of each CSU on the second of Taluk Coolie Sangha meeting.

At Chintamani, only one special training to VHWs on preparation and usage of herbal medicine was given.

64 women underwent surgeries related to different reproductive health ailments. An amount of Rs 43,500 has been paid out 17 women who underwent surgeries for different reproductive health ailments.

ADATS vehicle is used 21 times as an ambulance mainly for the reasons listed below.

- Taking referred patients to city hospitals 19
- Bring back dead bodies to village 1
- Taking accidents patients to hospitals 1

d. Heightened Support to inter-caste marriages and festivals

During this reporting period 107 marriages were performed. Below there is a table which contains the detailed information regarding marriages performed in five taluks.

No inter caste marriage was performed.

Total number of Marriages performed	107
No. of Arranged Marriages	77
No. of Choice Marriages	30
No. of Inter Caste Marriages	-

Indicator 3

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

a. Sustainable Agriculture (SA)

This cropping season more CSU members showed interest and came forward to adapt SA practices. Rains were not on time hence the sowing was done in August/September instead of June/July. ADATS SA team was worried about again facing a drought year. But fortunately rain started in August.

For 2015 cropping season 3220 Plots and 5970 Acres of land was selected under SA. But 331 farmers' in the last stage decided to opt out from SA, because they don't have faith in rain. In the remaining 2889 plots third ploughing was done immediately after the rain in August and accordingly sowing is done as per the Package of Practices (PoP). Most of the SA practices were followed by farmers as recommended in PoP, except use of green manure and following lane discipline between the inter-crops. The failure rate of the crop is very low it's only 3%.

In month of June/July, LCF Case workers along with Village monitors did tree survival monitoring in all the taluks. This is necessary to measure fixed carbon and carbon sequestration calculation. Please go through the tables below for 2015 Crop Season LCF implementation and A/R CDM –Tree survival rate details

Case Worker	Villages	Total Plots	Acres	Crop Sown (Plots)			Not Sown(Plots)
				Ragi	Ground Nut	Maize	
Braveen	22	591	1266	315	172	9	95
Ramesh	28	607	1191	367	169	30	41
Nagarjuna	30	976	1719	579	65	203	129
Narayanaswamy	18	504	566	384	17	92	11
Nanjunda	24	542	1228	60	304	123	55
	122	3220	5970	1705	727	457	331

Crop Success Rate

	Plots	Percentage
Total Sown	2,889	90%
Failure	83	3%
Success Rate	2,806	84%
Not Sown	331	10%

c. Agro Forestry

Taluk	Villages	Families	Acres Planted	Saplings	Survived	Survival Rate
Bagepalli	56	211	477 ac	55,640	13,198	24%
Chickballapur	11	23	43 ac	6,413	2,925	46%
Chintamani	57	280	399 ac	48,850	29,695	61%
Siddalaghatta	25	140	267 ac	29,205	11,157	38%
Gudibanda	5	10	3 ac	360	118	33%
Total	154	664	1,189 ac	140,468	57,093	41%

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 assess Project's outcome and impact

In January 2016, Field Workers and Mahila Trainers sat to prepare this Activity Report. Please note that we did not go to the village CSUs to obtain information.

5. CONCLUSION FOR THE FUTURE WORK

5.1. Need to change planned activities

In the last quarter of 2015 we finalised our 3 year Project Application to BfdW. In that document we made many changes to this ongoing Project.

5.2. Consultancy services required

None

5.3. Important lessons learnt

Please see the above referred Project Application.