



Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)
Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS)
Strategic Pilot on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) Project



GCP/IND/181/GFF

Reversing Environmental Degradation and Rural Poverty through Adaptation to Climate Change in
Drought Stricken Areas in Southern India: A Hydrological Unit Pilot Project Approach

Minutes of the Sixth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

The Sixth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the SPACC Project (GCP/IND/181/GEF) was convened on **20th December, 2013**, at Hotel Marigold by Green Park, Hyderabad.

Those present at the meeting were:

1. Dr. D. V. Raidu, IAS (Retired), State Project Advisor, Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Department of Rural Development (DRD), Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), **Chairman**
2. Dr. Peter E Kenmore, FAO Representative in India, **Co-Chairman**
3. Dr. M. R. G. Reddy, Director, Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GoI, **Member**
4. Dr. Nayanika Singh, GEF Consultant, representing Shri. Shashi Shekhar, IAS, Additional Secretary and GEF Operational Focus Point, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GoI **Member**.
5. Smt. C. Suvarna, IFS, Special Commissioner, Watersheds, Department of Rural Development (GoAP), **Member**
6. Dr. Satya Priya, National Programme Coordinator, Land and Water, FAO India, **Member**
7. Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager - SPACC Project and **Secretary**
8. Shri. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director - BIRDS and **Convener**

Apart from PSC members, also present were the Chief Executives of 9 Partner Non Governmental Organizations (BIRDS, CARE, CARVE, DIPA, GVS, PARTNER, SAFE, SAID and SYA). Key personnel of the Project Management Office (PMO) made presentations on progress in project implementation.

The members of the PSC, who could not participate in the meeting, due to prior commitments, were:

1. Shri. Vivek Saxena, IFS, Director, UNCCD Focal Point, MoEF, Gol, representing Dr. B. M. S. Rathore, Joint Secretary and National Focal Point, United Nation's Commission to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India (Gol), **Member**
2. Dr. S. Satapathy, Scientist E/Director, Climate Change Division, MoEF, Gol, **Member**
3. Dr. T.P. Singh, Project Director, Technical Facilitation Organization (TFO) – GEF Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) – Country Partnership Programme (CPP), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education or (ICFRE), Dehradun, **Member**
4. Dr. G. Sudarshan, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of India, **Member**
5. Shri. K. Madhusudhana Rao, IAS, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), **Member**

The meeting started with the welcoming the members of the PSC by Shri V. Paul Raja Rao, Convenor. After his opening remarks, Dr. D. V. Raidu, the Chairman of the PSC, invited the Co-chairman to make his opening remarks. Then, the Chairman then invited the project team to make power point presentations, as listed in the program (enclosed). After each of the presentations and at the end, members were invited by the chair to freely express their opinions and make observations and suggestions for better implementation of the project by the executing agencies.

After project level presentations, the Chair invited the Chief Executives of the 9 partner NGOs to share their specific experiences in implementing the sustainable land and water management pilots in their respective operational areas (hydrological units).

The meeting concluded after Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, the Secretary, proposed vote of thanks.

In the course of deliberations in the meeting, the honorable members made the following **observations**:

1. After one more cropping season the project with conclude. The project is through except for final fine-tuning. It is important to document products that can be "take-away". Small pilots are important because they indicate trends in thinking.
2. The role of partner NGOs is crucial in the current phase and after project closure as they are likely the torch-bearers of the model to be generated based on the lessons we are learning. APFAMGS model is likely to be adopted in other states in India. Expectations are there from this project too.
3. Mitigation and Adaptation of the two sides of Climate Change. While majority of the world's interventions are centered on mitigation, the project is focused on adaptation. Fortunately, India is also has an Adaptation focus. It is important that small farmers have to adapt and we should support them in their attempts. SPACC is one of the key projects on Adaptation in India and it is very important to carry forward this incredibly important work and lessons generated out of it, in the next 5-10 years.

4. Global models exist and work, but they are not relevant for local level decision making. HU level baseline study is important which clearly brought out climate difference within a district. Therefore farmers, within short distances, would have different adaptation options. The project is intervening in dialogue with farmers and science that farmers create, which is just as good as that created by scientists. Science can support farmer's decisions as it can support policy decisions at the national level. Farmers should be seen as co-producers of the science.
5. FAO is likely to be involved in IWMP in AP, to integrate PHM in its pilot project funded by the World Bank. IWMP will benefit from PHM approach, especially generation and use of local level climate data for better adaptation to climate change. Several other products of SPACC could be integrated with IWMP, especially continuation of training and capacity building post-project.
6. GEF Small Grant Program has earmarked certain amount of money in its portfolio to disseminate SPACC project lessons in other state.

Following **points of agreement** were reached after long deliberations, in the meeting:

1. Baseline Study (Output 1.1): The project team will send FAO, HU level datasets and pictures showing Gram Sabha in action, to share with the outside world.
2. Participatory Climate Monitoring (Output 1.2): The project team will send GEF-MoEF, a list of "package of practices" piloted and consolidated in the project.
3. Local (HU level) climate change adaptation plans (Output 1.3): The project will explore the feasibility of a) linking CCACs with SHGs and Panchayat Institutions and NREGA; b) creating "revolving fund" for CCACs to take care of post-project sustainability of project interventions; and c) deliver a local climate change adaptation plan that is good, if not perfect.
4. Farmer Climate Schools (Output 2.1): a) project will explore the possibility of running FCS beyond project period, by embedding it within the regular government programs such as IWMP; and b) project should not lose sight of FCS and know how farmers are responding to science demystifying and how their philosophy of farming is changing.
5. SLWM Pilots (Output 2.2): a) correlate the climate data with crop growth stages and yield to make it relevant to farmers; b) use 2013 data collected as part of SLWM pilots to show how integration of PCM, FCS, and SLWM helped pest management and improving soil health; c) use SLWM pilots to develop a new "package of practices" that farmers could use to adapt to climate change; d) encourage project partners to promote "farm forestry" in their post-project interventions; e) in the SLWM case studies, more light will be thrown on crop planning process, effective practices, and crop change, rotation or diversification, in response to understanding on climate variability; and f) once the SLWM case studies are ready, a good communication specialist will be hired to bring out quality dissemination material palatable to global audience.

6. PNGO presentations on SLWM pilots: PNGOs may encourage farmers a) to opt for castor cultivation in Mahbubnagar district; b) to replace orchard (sweet lime) with another orchard (such as guava or ber), instead of cotton, in Prakasam district; c) to cultivate of red-sanders in Kadapa district; d) to opt for NADEP compost instead of FYM; and e) integrate farming with bund forestry.
7. Dissemination – Website (Output 3.1): a) project will explore possibility of participating in the next National Science Congress, to be held in February 2014; b) FAOR would be willing to participate in a two-day brainstorming session, in March/May to work out strategies for bringing out documents that could pass on the project messages/learning to global audience; and c) the project will try to use platforms such as GEF Assembly in April 2014 to be held at Mexico, and GEF CEO workshop in Washington, to disseminate project messages to global audiences.
8. Dissemination – Institutional linkages (Output 3.2): a) the project should plan for a National Dissemination Workshop in collaboration with the SLEM-TFO (ICFRE). SPACC and SLEM-TFO may organize this workshop at Delhi on cost-sharing basis; and b) GEF focal point (MoEF) and FAO will facilitate negotiations between SPACC and SLEM-TFO to firm this up, early next year.
9. Project Management: a) the project team will undertake an internal exercise to plan for the remainder of the project period, at the time of HPR 6 compilation, instead of a full-scale AWPB workshop; b) all the field level activities will be completed by end of February 2014; and c) NPC-LW, FAO will coordinate with the Chair to firm up dates for project visit (Prakasam district) and 2-day brainstorming session, in February 2014.

[Minutes drafted by Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Secretary and approved by Dr. D. V. Raidu, Chairman]



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Sixth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

20th December, 2013

PROGRAMME

09.00 Registration

09.30 Welcome by the Member Convener

Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director, BIRDS

09.35 Opening Remarks by the Honorable Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Special Invitee

Shri. D. V. Raidu, IAS, State Project Advisor, CMSA SERP DRD, GoAP

Dr. Peter E Kenmore, FAO Country Representative

09.55 Progress Report

09.55 Presentation on Outcome 1A: Baseline Study and Participatory Climate Monitoring

Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager

10.05 Quick reflections of the honorable PSC members

10.15 Presentation on Outcome 1B and 3A (Institutions) and 2A (Farmer Climate Schools)

Mr. C. Konda Reddy, Subject Expert – Community Organization

10.30 Quick reflections of the honorable PSC members

10.40 Presentation on Outcome 2B: Sustainable Land and Water Management Pilots

Mr. S. S. Kandagal, Subject Expert – Sustainable Agriculture

10.50 Quick reflections of the honorable PSC members

11.00 Presentation on Outcome 3A (Documentation and Dissemination); and Project Management

Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager

11.10 Quick reflections of the honorable PSC members

11.15 Tea break

11.30 Experience sharing on SLWM Pilots by PNGO Heads

11.30 BIRDS, Kurnool district – Shri. V. Paul Raja Rao

11.35 CARE, Mahbubnagar district – Dr. T. N. Reddy

11.40 CARVE, Prakasam district – Shri. G. Ravindra Kumar

11.45 DIPA, Prakasam district – Shri. B. Yesudas

11.50 GVS, Chittoor district – Shri. Ch. Rambabu

11.55 PARTNER, Kadapa district – Shri. P. Nazeer Khan

12.00 SAID, Nalgonda district – Shri. A. Sujan Das

12.05 SAFE, Prakasam district – Dr. M. Madhukar Reddy

12.10 SYA, Anantapur district – Shri. S. C. Hassain

12.15 Reflections

12.15 Reflections of the honorable **PSC members**

12.15 Dr. Nayanika Singh, representing Shri. Shashi Shekar IAS, GEF Focal Point, MoEF, GoI

12.20 Shri. Vivek Saxena IFS, representing Shri. BMS Rathore IAS, UNCCD Focal Point, MoEF, GoI

12.25 Dr. S. Satapathy, Scientist E and Director, Climate Change Division, MoEF, GoI

12.30 Dr. G. Sudershan, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, MoWR, GoI

12.35 Dr. T. P. Singh IFS, Project Director, SLEM-TFO, ICFRE, Dehradun

12.40 Dr. MRG Reddy, CCF and Head of Forest Research Centre, ICFRE, Dulapally, Hyderabad

12.45 Dr. C. Suvarna IFS, Special Commissioner, RD-Watershed, GoAP

12.50 Shri. Dharma Naik, representing K. Madhusudhana Rao IAS, Commissioner Agriculture, GoAP

12.55 Dr. GRS Reddy, Scientist F, Forestry, FRC, ICFRE, Dulapally, Hyderabad

13.00 Release of the Baseline Study Report

13.10 Closing Remarks

Shri. D. V. Raidu, Chairman of PSC and Dr. Peter E Kenmore, Vice-Chairman

13.20 Vote of Thanks by the Member Secretary

Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager

13.30 Lunch and disburse