



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 First Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

The first Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the SPACC Project (GCP/IND/181/GEF) was convened on **14th March, 2011**, at Hotel Minerva Grand, Hyderabad. Of the 12 members of the PSC, 9 could make it to the first PSC meeting. Members of the PSC, present at the meeting were:

1. Shri. 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. Shri. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director - BIRDS and Project Manager - SPACC Project, **Secretary and Convener**
3. Dr. Gavin Wall, Resident Representative in India, FAOUN, **Member** was represented by Dr. Gopi Ghosh, Assistant FAO Representative, FAOUN, New Delhi
4. Dr. Satya Priya, National Programme Coordinator, FAOUN, New Delhi, **Member**
5. Dr. Rajneesh Dube, Joint Secretary and National Focal Point, United Nation's Commission to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI), **Member**, was represented by Shri. Vivek Saxena, IFS, Director, UNCCD Focal Point, MoEF, GoI.
6. Shri. Hem Pande, Joint Secretary to GoI, GEF Operational Focus Point, MoEF, **Member**, was represented by Dr. Nayanika Singh, GEF Representative.
7. Dr. S. Satapathy, Scientist E, Director, Climate Change Division, MoEF, **Member**
8. Dr. Dharmendra Verma, 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**
9. Dr. N. Varadarajan, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of India, **Member**

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

10. Dr. G. S. R. Reddy, Scientist E, Forestry Resource Centre (an arm of ICFRE), Dulapally, Andhra Pradesh, **Member**
11. Shri. Sunil Sharma, IAS, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), **Member**
12. Smt. C. Suvarna, IFS, Special Commissioner, Department of Rural Development (GoAP), **Member**

The members of the Project Management Office (PMO) team were invited to the meeting to give presentations on the Annual Plan and Budget 2011, and respond to the queries of honorable members of the PSC on technical matters related to the project. The Chief Executives/Field Officers of the eight Partner Non Governmental Organizations were also present in the meeting, as observers.

The meeting started with the welcoming the members of the PSC by Shri V. Paul Raja Rao. In his opening remarks, Shri D. V. Raidu, the Chairman of the PSC, gave an overview of the activities of CMSA and their relevance of climate change adaptation, through a power point presentation. Dr. Gopi Ghosh then made introductory remarks on the project and its evolution from the previously implemented Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS) Project.

Dr. Satya Priya, gave first of the series of power point presentations on the planned project activities for the year 2011, followed by three Subject Experts (SEs) of PMO, ending with summing up of the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) 2011 by Shri. V. Paul Raja Rao.

The members of PSC then deliberated on the proposed AWPB 2011 and decided on the following:

1. BIRDS and other project executing agencies will: use the short version of the project title in the project implementation but, the original title will be retained while reporting to GEF; focus only on adaptation and will not talk about mitigation, though small contributions are expected to contribute to reduction of GHG emissions, as a result of adaptation; adaptation options will be identified, taking into consideration, local level conditions, cost-effectiveness, and real benefits to the community, apart from making use of available literature; track co-financing from the day one and include it in all reporting; make the project website bilingual i. e., in English and Telugu (for the benefit of project farmers); involve local Government authorities, in the project operational area in the project implementation; make sure that there is good coordination between the three sectors viz., water management, agriculture, and community organization, in the project implementation; spell out criteria for selection of pilot areas (9 Hydrological Units) in the Project Inception Report; and provide quantification of each of the project activities and their description in the final Annual Work Plan and Budget 2011.
2. FAOUN will facilitate the process of building functional linkages between the SPACC project and the “Network Project on Climate Change on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change”, and the project “National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), both supported by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and implemented by Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA).
3. The Climate Change Division of MoEF will provide support for the project to: access and benefit from the report “Climate Change and India: A 4X4 Assessment, A sectoral and regional analysis for 2030s”, prepared by the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA)”; make itself relevant to the National Action Plan on Climate Change; establish strong linkages with Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI), the Nodal Agency in Andhra Pradesh for drafting the State Action Plan; and provide technical guidance in conduct of Bench Mark Study, specifically looking at the migration due to drought, steps taken to reduce it (like resettlement and rehabilitation), and existing farmer adaptation strategies.
4. UNCCD Focal point will provide support to project in: formation of thematic/email groups; making use of the results of the climate monitoring by the Ministry of Earth Sciences; benchmarking the Net Primary Productivity (number of effected people in the operational area and number of people Below Poverty Line), will be used as indicator of Impact (of Climate Change) Monitoring; and sharing its workshop/ training calendar with the project.
5. ICFRE will: share it's Training Modules with the project authorities for value addition; provide technical guidance to ensure scientific climate monitoring; and bring in coherence between the project and the National Communication (on Climate Change) I and II (that will be submitted in June 2011).
6. Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has mapped water availability at the mandal level in Andhra Pradesh. This can be downscaled to watershed or HU scale in the project. The project will establish functional linkages with CGWB at Hyderabad to benefit form its technology and information. National Water Mission recommends 40% reduction in water use. The project will pilot test this recommendation.

The members of PSC unanimously approved the proposed Annual Work Plan and Budget 2011.

Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. T. N. Reddy, Chief Executive of Centre for Agricultural Research and Ecology (CARE), a partner NGO.

The meeting ended at 5.00 PM, with the closing remarks of the Chairman, who observed that a road-map needs to be prepared for smooth grounding of the project.

{Minutes prepared by Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Subject Expert – Water Management, PMO-SPACC}