



**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 Third Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting**

The Third Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the SPACC Project (GCP/IND/181/GEF) was convened on **17<sup>th</sup> April, 2012**, at Hotel Minerva Grand, Hyderabad. The Agenda of the meeting is furnished as **Annex 1**. A detailed list of participants is enclosed as **Annex 2**.

**Following members of the PSC were present, at the meeting:**

1. Dr. D. V. Raidu IAS (Retd.), Advisor, Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Society for Elimination of Poverty (SERP), Rural Development, GoAP – **Member Chairman**
2. Dr. Peter Kenmore, Country Representative, FAO - **Member**
3. Dr. Satya Priya, National Program Coordinator, Land and Water, FAO - **Member**
4. Mr. M. R. G. Reddy IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests and Head, Forestry Research Centre (FRC) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Ministry of Environment (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) - **Member**
5. Dr. Renu Singh IFS, Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division and Project Director, Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management – Technical Facilitation Organization (TFO), ICFRE, MoEF, GoI - **Member**
6. Dr. N. Varadarajan, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), GoI - **Member**
7. Ms. C. Suvarna IFS, Special Commissioner, Rural Development (Watersheds), Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) - **Member**
8. Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director, Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS) – **Member Convener**
9. Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager, SPACC Project – **Member Secretary**

**PSC members, who could not make it to the meeting, was:**

1. Mr. B. M. S. Rathore IAS, Joint Secretary and National Focal Point, United Nation's Council for Combating Desertification (UNCCD), Ministry of Environment (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) OR his representative Dr. Vivek Saxena IFS, Director, Desertification Cell – **Member**
2. Mr. H. K. Pande IAS, Joint Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point, Ministry of Environment (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) OR his representative Dr. Nayanika Singh, GEF Consultant – **Member**
3. Ms. V. Usharani IAS, Commissioner, Agriculture, GoAP - **Member**

**Following information was shared, in the meeting:**

1. Dr. Peter Kenmore, the FAO Country Representative, in his address, noted that: With increasing population we cannot give up the agriculture production targets. Therefore, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) does not advocate practices that result in reduction of crop yield, but promotes actions aimed at understanding, protection and management of ecosystems treasured by farmers. “CSA scans globally and re-invents locally”. Farmers needs to experiments with production systems, ecosystems and socio-political systems and learn to re-invent suitable management techniques. Farmer Field Schools have so far reached more than 7-8 million farmers, across the globe. Farmer Water Schools, experimented as part of Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS) Project, made visible to the farmers, the invisible form of water. Groundwater Monitoring Committee (GMC) and Hydrological Unit Networks (HUN) and now Climate Change Adaptation Committees (CCAC) would give additional strength and benefit, not only ecological but also to leverage the market. Farmers have been adapting to climate change and SPACC will provide opportunity for them to adapt even better. The horrific pictures of showing drought of 1870 are still fresh on my mind and there is no reason for us to allow that happen again, and we know global climate pattern can do terrible things.
2. One district in Andhra Pradesh will try a pilot on convergence of FAO and Ministry of Agriculture, GoAP.
3. The Ministry of Rural Development, GoAP, is planning for convergence with FAO in its Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP) and Sustainable Land Development Program (SLDP).
4. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has organized “Social Liability Groups”.
5. Crop production is affected due to reduction in night temperatures. In other words, crop yields go down affecting the crop physiology.

**Following points of agreement were reached after detailed discussion:**

1. The project should be a policy experiment, wherein farmers are put into continuous learning, which will flow to NGOs and the line departments. Next PSC will assess the quality of project learning and the extent to which the project is using its resources effectively.
2. Water management, marketing and community capacity building should form basis for implementation of the project.
3. Climate change as defined by farmers should be adopted by the project and it should move from “Algebra” of APFAMGS to more dynamic “Calculus” of SPACC.
4. Case studies of Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) should be uploaded on the SPACC website, with due acknowledgement.
5. Government Officers from the departments of agriculture, animal husbandry and other technical personnel should be involved in SPACC training programs.
6. The project will submit a Progress Report (physical and financial) for the period January to March 2012, to SLEM TFO (ICFRE).
7. The climate variability analysis (temperature and rainfall) should be done for 30 years.
8. The term Farmer Climate Schools (FCS) is more apt to be used by the project in place of Climate Field Schools (CFS). The project staff should have open mind and learn along with the farmers. Number of FCS sessions should be reviewed an appropriate number worked out by the project.

9. Project should put special efforts to improve women's participation in its activities. All project monitoring, baseline survey, evaluation, impact assessment and documentation shall present gender disaggregated data. Apart from membership in Committees, the project should thrive for active participation of women in all its activities. Woman Climate Schools could be an option.
10. GoAP has issued a new list of villages, notified for no further groundwater development, which is available online. The Project should make use of the list in its work.
11. Baseline Study: methodology to be elaborated; the data should be gender disaggregated; should use scientific terms in the data analysis; perception of farmers on climate variability/change should be validated with the data of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD); the terms "women-headed households", "plantation" and "adapted to changes – humidity" should be defined; the term "sustainable agriculture" should not be equated with the term "organic agriculture"; data on soil moisture and soil fertility should be disaggregated; list of "water saving methods" should be categorized into irrigation method and pressurized systems; sample size should be compared to the total population in the HU; the spatial representation of the data using GIS layers available with RD should be attempted; a teleconference could be organized for investigators, project staff and FAO to thrash out issues on the current form of baseline study findings. The project should improve on the baseline study and work out concrete work plan, as the monsoon is just round the corner.
12. Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) Pilots: right now SLWM pilots look abstract and elaborations are needed; pilots should be re-designed based on the representative field survey results of 9 pilot HUs, separately; the pilot "Maximum Admissible Draft" should incorporate certain allocation for Drinking Water Security and "Social Fencing" needs elaboration; The Pilot "Maximum Admissible Pollution" should concentrate on pollution due to agriculture; if there are instances of industrial pollution, the relevant "pollution control board" should be informed; the pilot "Climate Smart Agriculture in Groundnut" should be further elaborated to indicate improved management practices and use of technology; Non Pesticide Management inputs should be produced locally; number of pilots may be reduced based on the farmer feedback; "village equity plan" can be developed in all pilots; and the project should not follow the "industrial model in agriculture".

**Other activities carried out in course of the meeting were:**

1. The Minutes of the second PSC meeting was ratified.
2. The Annual Work Plan and Budget 2012 were approved.
3. The project website was formally launched.
4. The print and electronic media was briefed about the project activities and FAO's role in the state.

*[Minutes prepared by Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager]*

**Enclosed:**

Annex 1: Agenda of the third Project Steering Committee meeting

Annex 2: A detailed list of participants in the third Project Steering Committee Meeting

**Agenda**  
**Third Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
**17 April, 2012, Hotel Grand Minerva, Hyderabad**

- 09.45 Registration
- 10.00 Welcome by the Member Convener  
Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director, BIRDS
- 10.05 Opening Remarks by the Honorable Chairman  
Dr. D. V. Raidu, IAS, State Project Advisor, CMSA SERP DRD, GoAP
- 10.15 Opening Address: FAO Climate Smart Agriculture  
Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO Country Representative, India
- 10.45 Action Taken Report by the Member Secretary  
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 10.55 Ratification of the Minutes of the Second Project Steering Committee Meeting
- 11.00 Presentation on the Project Progress  
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 11.10 Launching of the Project Website
- 11.20 Tea break
- 11.45 Key findings of the Baseline Study:  
Dr. B. K. D. Raja, President, Samaj Vikas Development Support Organization
- 12.00 Presentation on the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) 2012
- 12.00 Overview:  
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 12.10 Participatory Climate Monitoring (PCM):  
Mr. Anil Rautray, Subject Expert, Water Management
- 12.20 Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) Pilots:  
Mr. S. S. Kandagal, Subject Expert, Sustainable Agriculture
- 12.30 Climate Field Schools (CFS):  
Mr. C. Konda Reddy, Subject Expert, Community Organization
- 12.40 Comments and Suggestion of the honorable members of PSC:  
Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO Country Representative, India  
Dr. N. Varadarajan, Regional Director, CGWB, MoWR, Gol  
Dr. M R.G. Reddy, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests and Head, FRC-ICFRE, Gol  
Dr. Renu Singh, Project Director, SLEM-ICFRE, MoEF, Gol  
Ms. C. Suvarna, IFS, Special Commissioner, RD (watersheds), GoAP  
Dr. Satya Priya, National Program Coordinator, Land and Water, FAO India  
Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director, BIRDS  
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 13.40 Approval of the AWPB 2012
- 13.45 Closing Remarks by the Honorable Chairman  
Dr. D. V. Raidu, IAS, State Project Advisor, CMSA SERP DRD, GoAP
- 13.55 Vote of Thanks by the Member Secretary  
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 14.00 Lunch
- 15.00 Press Conference**

## Annex 2: A detailed list of Participants

<b>Honorable Members of the Project Steering Committee</b>			
1.	Dr. Peter Kenmore	Country Representative	FAO <sup>1</sup>
2.	Dr. Satya Priya	National Program Coordinator, Land and Water	FAO
3.	Mr. M. R. G. Reddy IFS	Chief Conservator of Forests and Head, Forestry Research Centre (FRC) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Ministry of Environment (MoEF)	Gol <sup>2</sup>
4.	Dr. Renu Singh	Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division and Project Director, Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management – Technical Facilitation Organization (TFO), ICFRE, MoEF	Gol
5.	Dr. N. Varadarajan	Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)	Gol
6.	Dr. D. V. Raidu IAS (Retd.)	Advisor, Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Society for Elimination of Poverty (SERP), Rural Development	GoAP <sup>3</sup>
7.	Ms. C. Suvarna	Special Commissioner, Rural Development (RD) - Watersheds	GoAP
8.	Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao	Executive Director	BIRDS <sup>4</sup>
9.	Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das	Project Manager, GEF-FAO-BIRDS Strategic Pilot on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC)	PMO <sup>5</sup>
<b>Invitees</b>			
10.	Dr. G. R. S. Reddy	Scientist E, FRC, ICFRE	Gol
11.	Dr. B. N. Rao	Scientist E, CGWB	Gol
12.	Mr. Wesley	Rural Development (Watersheds)	GoAP
13.	Dr. T. N. Reddy	PNGO Chief	CARE <sup>6</sup>
14.	Mr. G. Ravindra Kumar	PNGO Chief	CARVE <sup>7</sup>
15.	Mr. P. Nazeer Khan	PNGO Chief	PARTNER <sup>8</sup>
16.	Mr. A. Sujan Das	PNGO Chief	SAID <sup>9</sup>
17.	Mr. S. C. Hassain	PNGO Chief	SYA <sup>10</sup>
<b>Project Staff</b>			
18.	Mr. S.S.Kandagal	Subject Expert - Sustainable Agriculture	PMO
19.	Mr. C. Konda Reddy	Subject Expert - Community Organization	PMO
20.	Mr. Anil Rautray	Subject Expert - Water Management	PMO
21.	Mr. B. Umameswara Rao	Project Officer - Land & Water Management	PMO
22.	Mr. S. Sivaprasad	Project Officer- Non Formal Education	PMO
23.	Mr. N. Rambabu	Project Officer - Documentation	PMO
24.	Mr. V.N.S.S S. Mohan	Administrative Officer	PMO
25.	Mr. P. Shravan Kumar	Finance Officer	PMO
26.	Ms. K.V.S Lakshmi	FDCMA	PMO
27.	Ms. D. Purna Kumari	Receptionist	PMO
28.	Ms. V. S. Devi	Accountant	PMO

<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)

<sup>2</sup> Government of India (Gol)

<sup>3</sup> Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP)

<sup>4</sup> Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS)

<sup>5</sup> Project Management Office (PMO)

<sup>6</sup> Centre for Applied Research & Extension (CARE)

<sup>7</sup> Collective Activities for rejuvenation of Village Arts and Environment (CARVE)

<sup>8</sup> People's Activity and Rural Technology Nurturing Ecological Rejuvenation (PARTNER)

<sup>9</sup> Social Awareness for Integrated Development (SAID)

<sup>10</sup> Star Youth Association (SYA)