



**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 Fourth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

The Fourth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the SPACC Project (GCP/IND/181/GEF) was convened on **14th December, 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**. Some of the PSC members participated in the project visit facilitated by the partner nongovernmental organization, Centre for Applied Research and Extension (CARE), in Mahbubnagar district, on 15th December 2012. Itinerary of the field visit is furnished as **Annex 3**.

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. Nayanika Singh IFS, GEF Consultant, representing Mr. H. K. Pande, Joint Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point, Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests - **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. G. Sudarshan, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), GoI - **Member**
6. Dr. Satya Priya, National Program Coordinator, Land and Water, FAO – **Member**
7. Mr. B. Janardhan Reddy, representing Ms. C. Suvarna, IFS, Special Commissioner, Rural Development (RD)-watershed, 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, included:

1. Dr. Vivek Saxena IFS, Director, Desertification Cell, representing 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) – **Member**
2. Dr. S. Satapathy, Scientist 'E'/Director, Climate Change Division, MoEF, GoI – **Member**
3. Dr. T. P. Singh, Project Director, Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) – Technical Facilitation Organization (TFO), ICFRE, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – **Member**
4. Mr. K. Madhusudhana Rao IAS, Commissioner Agriculture, GoAP – **Member**

Following “key” observations were made by the honourable members, during the course of the meeting:

1. Groundnut yields in Anantapur are declining every year, mainly because of growing same crop year after year. This in return increases soil pathogens.
2. The SPACC project is promoting a different and healthier approach. Farmer groups working in this project are generating interesting data. Women are asking questions in the open forum, which is not usual.
3. All of us owe farmers something, and we should be helping farmers set up experiments using the questions they are raising.
4. Application of FAO Ex-ACT carbon balance tool can be tried out in the project, although it was felt that this is more of a mitigation related tool as against the adaptation being the focus of the project.
5. Krishi Vignan Kendras (KVKs) should not be seen as the bottom level extension. On the contrary, KVKs should be on the top where interesting questions are asked/raised. Challenge is to rope in KVKs into some of the ongoing work on this project.
6. Global warming and night time temperatures are going up globally, the state and district level data need not go along with global models. But our job is not to make farmers to conform, but to help farmers to adapt.
7. The project should understand what the climate people are doing for analysing climate variability. This will help the project demystify climate variability to farmers.
8. Farmer’s perceptions may not always coincide with scientific analysis. Additionally, they may decide to be polite and reconfirm our views, which we are feeding them. The pattern need not be same.
9. The project believes in knowledge based dissemination in place of resource based dissemination.
10. Regulation is to create space for right action. It will not solve the problem. With the lessons we learn in this whole adventure, we can get back to the regulators with our learning.
11. We have to take seriously all the warnings about natural resources running out: land, water, biodiversity.
12. Neither private sector nor the government are any good at organizing the farmers. NGO are the only source of expertise at organizing the farmers. Government has to learn how to partner with NGOs to organize farmers.
13. Embedding of APFAMGS in 12th plan is a huge responsibility for SPACC, to improve further.

Following recommendations were made by the honourable members, for the project team to follow up:

1. Baseline study: While there was lot of improvement in presentation on baseline study, compared to the one made in the last PSC meeting, the analysis could be further improved by: i) rainfall data of last ten years collected from mandal offices could be used along with the IMD data in the graph on rainfall variability; ii) additional graphs should be generated showing, a) monthly variation in number of rainy days, b) annual and monthly standard deviation in rainfall and c) trends of variability of weather parameters both in time and space; iii) cropping pattern should also reflect inter-cropping and poly-cropping; and iv) income from crops and animal husbandry (especially small ruminates) should be separated.
2. Farmer Climate Schools (FCS): The project team should: i) think about dissemination of FCS learning to other members of the community (farmers and CCAC members); ii) models generated in current FCS should be used in future sessions; and iii) FCS should be able to: ensure women's participation (gender equity), bring out what is useful to the farmers (ready to use knowledge products), especially innovative methods of agriculture.
3. Sustainable land and water management (SLWM) pilots: i) Crop water budgeting should include season-wise water use and its profitability for all 9 HUs; ii) cricket-pitch methodology developed by FAO could be used in the project to demystify "soil nutrient management" for benefit of farmers; iii) Boron could be included in the soil nutrient analysis; iv) plant population count should be per square meter; v) inter-crop should have a ratio of 5:1 or 7:1; vi) apart from "bajra", cowpea and cucumber could be tried in poly-cropping; vii) the effect of deep ploughing should be measured; viii) effect of bird perches such as impacts of birds on field pest should be well documented; ix) apart from Trichoderma for seed treatment, crop-rotation should be encouraged because it can break the cycle and result in decrease in pathogens in the soil; x) machine based harvesting can lead to scarcity of fodder and tree-based fodder should be seen as an alternative source; x) agro-forestry is currently missing and should be encouraged at some possible sites, in consultation with ICFRE; and xi) micro-irrigation should be promoted
4. Documentation and Dissemination: i) a map showing the overlap of SPACC and CMSA villages could be prepared; ii) historical trends together with variability may as well be shown on display boards; iii) soil nutrient maps could be displayed; iv) creation of video clips on pilot projects together with digital green be explored and prepared
5. Exit Strategy: i) the project needs to develop an exit strategy for mainstreaming the project experience into the regular government program; and ii) second level capacity building (government functionaries) needs to be incorporated in the exit strategy; iii) Rural Development Ministry could be a potential partner, and the project should start working in partnership with the women self help groups organized by SERP.
6. The Project Manager will identify a set of villages, where SPACC and CMSA overlap, and plan for a field visit along with the honourable Chairman.

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

Annex 1 to minutes of the fourth project steering committee meeting:

Agenda

- 09.45 Registration**
- 10.00 Welcome** by the Member Convener
Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director, BIRDS
- 10.10 Opening Remarks by the Honorable Chairman
Dr. D. V. Raidu, IAS, State Project Advisor, CMSA SERP DRD, GoAP
- 10.20 Opening Remarks by the Co-Chairman
Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO India Representative
- 10.30 Action Taken Report by the Member Secretary for ratification of minutes of third PSC meeting
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 11.00 Progress Review**
- 11.00 Presentation on Outcome 1A: Baseline Study and Participatory Climate Monitoring
Mr. Anil Rautray, Subject Expert – Water Management
- 11.30 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 11.45 Presentation on Outcome 1B (Community Based Organization) and 2A (Farmer Climate Schools)
Mr. C. Konda Reddy, Subject Expert – Community Organization
- 12.00 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 12.15 Presentation on Outcome 2B: Sustainable Land and Water Management Pilots
Mr. S. S. Kandagal, Subject Expert – Sustainable Agriculture
- 12.15 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 12.30 Presentation on Outcome 3A: Documentation and Dissemination; and Project Management
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 12.45 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 13.00 Comments and Suggestion of the honorable members of PSC**
Dr. Nayanika Singh, Consultant, GEF Operational Focal Point, MoEF, GoI
Mr. Vivek Saxena IFS, National Focal Point UNCCD, MoEF, GoI
Dr. S. Satapathy, Director, Climate Change Division, MoEF, GoI
Dr. G. Sudarshan, Regional Director In Charge, CGWB, MoWR, GoI
Dr. M R.G. Reddy, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests and Head, FRC-ICFRE, GoI
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
- 13.45 Closing Remarks**
- 13.45 Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO India Representative, Co-chairman of PSC
- 13.50 Dr. D. V. Raidu, Chairman of PSC
- 13.55 Vote of Thanks** by the Member Secretary
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 14.00 Lunch and disburse**

Annex 2 to minutes of the fourth project steering committee meeting:

List of participants

Honourable Members of the Project Steering Committee			
1.	Dr. Peter Kenmore	Country Representative	FAO ¹
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)	GoI ²
4.	Dr. G. Sudarshan	Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)	GoI
5.	Dr. D. V. Raidu IAS (Retd.)	Advisor, Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Society for Elimination of Poverty (SERP), Rural Development	GoAP ³
6.	Mr. B. Janardhan Reddy representing Ms. C. Suvarna	Special Commissioner, Rural Development (RD) - Watersheds	GoAP
7.	Mr. V. Paul Raja Rao	Executive Director	BIRDS ⁴
8.	Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das	Project Manager, GEF-FAO-BIRDS Strategic Pilot on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC)	PMO ⁵
Invitees			
9.	Dr. G. R. S. Reddy	Scientist E, FRC, ICFRE	GoI
10.	Dr. P. N. Rao	Scientist E, CGWB	GoI
11.	Dr. T. N. Reddy	PNGO Chief	CARE ⁶
12.	Mr. Ch. Rambabu	PNGO Chief	GVS ⁷
13.	Dr. M. Madhukar Reddy	PNGO Chief	SAFE ⁸
14.	Mr. G. Ravindra Kumar	PNGO Chief	CARVE ⁹
15.	Mr. P. Nazeer Khan	PNGO Chief	PARTNER ¹⁰
16.	Mr. A. Sujan Das	PNGO Chief	SAID ¹¹
17.	Mr. S. C. Hassain	PNGO Chief	SYA ¹²
Project Staff			
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

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)

² Government of India (GoI)

³ Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP)

⁴ Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS)

⁵ Project Management Office (PMO)

⁶ Centre for Applied Research & Extension (CARE)

⁷ Gram Vikas Samshtha

⁸ Society for Sustainable Agriculture and Forest Ecology

⁹ Collective Activities for rejuvenation of Village Arts and Environment (CARVE)

¹⁰ People's Activity and Rural Technology Nurturing Ecological Rejuvenation (PARTNER)

¹¹ Social Awareness for Integrated Development (SAID)

¹² Star Youth Association (SYA)

Annex 3 to minutes of the fourth project steering committee meeting:

Itinerary of the project visit

15th December 2012

- 08.00 Leave from Hotel Grand Minerva, after breakfast
- 11.00 Reach Rangampeta village
Visit SLWM pilot plot and interact with farmers (S. Papaiah and S. Hymavathi)
- 11.20 Visit Monitoring Well and interact with farmers (K. Krishnaiah)
- 11.30 Leave Rangampeta village
- 11.45 Reach Kamsanpalli village
- 11.45 Visit Participatory Climate Monitoring (PCM) Stations and interaction with farmers (Renaiah and Bhimamma - temperature; G. Laxmamma – rainfall; G. Kishnaiah Goud – pan evaporimeter; C. Srinu – wind direction and velocity; and Ramakrishna – sunshine recorder)
- 12.30 Photo Gallery walk
- 12.45 Interaction with Farmer Climate School (FCS) participants; and members of Mallappavagu Climate Change Adaptation Committee (CCAC)
- 13.15 Look at the PCM display boards and interact with volunteers (C. Srinu and Ramulu)
- 13.30 Leave Kamsanpalli
- 14.00 Reach Achampeta: Forest Guest House
Lunch
- 15.00 Leave Achampeta
- 17.30 Arrive at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad
- 19.00 Reach Hyderabad

List of PSC members participating in the project visit:

1. Dr. Nayanika Singh, Global Environment Facility (GEF Consultant), Ministry of Environment of Forests, Government of India
2. Mr. Vivek Saxena IFS, Director, Desertification Cell, Ministry of Environment of Forests, Government of India
3. Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager, GEF-FAO-BIRDS SPACC Project