



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 Fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

The Fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the SPACC Project (GCP/IND/181/GEF) was convened on **12th June, 2013**, at Hotel Minerva Grand, 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. Gopi N. Ghosh, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme), representing Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO Representative in India, **Co-Chairman**
3. Ms. Rikke Olivera, Natural Resource Management Expert, GEF Coordination Unit, FAO Head Quarters, Rome, **Special Invitee**
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. Dr. G. Sudarshan, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of India, **Member**
6. Dr. G. R. S. Reddy, Scientist E, representing Dr. M. R. G. Reddy, Chief Conservator of Forests and Head, Forestry Research Centre (FRC), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GoI, **Member**
7. Smt. C. Suvarna, IFS, Special Commissioner, Watersheds, Department of Rural Development (GoAP), **Member**
8. Dr. Satya Priya, National Programme Coordinator, Land and Water, FAO India, **Member**
9. Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager - SPACC Project and **Secretary**

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, GoI, 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 (GoI), **Member**
2. Dr. S. Satapathy, Scientist E/Director, Climate Change Division, MoEF, GoI, **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. Shri. K. Madhusudhana Rao, IAS, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), **Member**
5. Shri. V. Paul Raja Rao, Executive Director - BIRDS and **Convener**

Apart from PSC members, also present were the Chief Executives of 5 Partner Non Governmental Organizations (CARE, CARVE, DIPA, PARTNER, and SAID), while remaining (BIRDS, GVS, SAFE, and SYA) could not make it to the meeting. The key Consultants and staff of the Project Management Office (PMO) of the SPACC project participated in the meeting to brief about the progress of the project implementation and respond to the queries of honorable members of the PSC, on technical matters related to the project.

The meeting started at 10.30 AM with the welcoming the members of the PSC by Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Secretary. After his opening remarks, Dr. D. V. Raidu, the Chairman of the PSC, invited the Co-chairman and Special Invitee to make their opening remarks. The Chairman then invited the project team to make power point presentations, as listed in the programme (annexed). After each of the presentations and at the end, members were permitted by the chair to freely express their opinions and make observations and suggestions for better implementation of the project by the executing agencies. The meeting ended at 2.00 PM, after the Vote of Thanks, proposed by Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, the Secretary.

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

1. Several good initiatives are being implemented outside the government's domain. The SPACC project is contributing to the development discourse through building farmers capacities to grapple with climate change scenario and its impact on rural livelihoods. SPACC already has incredible and important results in a short span of time. The Government is eager to learn from such pilots and scale up the best practices.
2. The project's efforts to build linkages with Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) of Rural Development Department, is appreciated.
3. Project demonstrates feasibility of farmer-led monitoring and data analysis. It has a good potential and can be replicated in India and elsewhere. The strength lies in its institutional structure of NGO-Network, in comparison to those implemented by a single NGO; and institutional structure from village level to HU level. The project has a strong community empowerment element and the uptake of climate resilient agricultural practices is critical at the HU-level.
4. Chittor, Kadapa, and Anantapur receive rainfall from both southwest and northeast monsoons.
5. Non-availability of data at micro-level is a major constraint in climate data analysis. Thanks to APFAMGS, rainfall data of past 10 years at local level could be made available to the project by farmer institutions. SPACC intervention is expected to will provide the farmers as well as researcher local data on additional weather parameters, in the future.

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

1. The Project Team will explore: a) strategies to disseminate PCM data to illiterates; b) sort through the data and identify occurrence of extreme weather events and assist the communities identify suitable risk management and adaptation options; c) assist farmers to look at aspects such as, onset of monsoon, dry spells, withdrawal of monsoon, their impacts on crop productivity, options suitable to cope with those weather aberrations; d) share the information on groundwater potential and use

- with the farmers; e) prepare a case study on weekly climate data analysis; f) work closely with government organizations, emphasizing on use of locally available materials; g) explore the possibility of bringing in gender balance among project staff; h) strategies to wean farmers from mono cropping (particularly growing groundnut every season); i) consider results of soil analysis and a critical input in crop selection; j) bring out communication material that document the process of implementation and learning thereof; k) encourage farmers to continue NPM practices, use of locally available resources in crop production, and in-situ water conservation; and l) list bio-physical indicators for monitoring and evaluation.
2. Farmer Climate Schools (FCS), in Kharif 2013, will be of experimental nature, following the crop cycle under SLWM pilots, at each of the 9 HUs. Session Guides will be developed directly for each session, as they progress. The curriculum development workshops and training of trainers will be stalled for the time-being.
 3. A two-page note will be compiled by the project team, on each of the SLWM pilots, implemented in the cropping seasons of 2012-13. The note will focus on improved practices, positive rate of return, challenges faced in the implementation, and lessons learned. This will provide a pool of information that will contribute to delivery of project outcomes. A summary of these notes will be annexed to the next Half-yearly Progress Report (HPR 5).
 4. SPACC could utilize the services of ICFRE in promotion of agro-forestry among its NGO partners and CBOs. Linkages with Vana Vignana Kendra (VVK) at the local level could be facilitated, through a formal letter, if required, to nurture partnership of CBOs and VVKs.
 5. Any PSC member could plan for field visits to project sites, at their convenience to get a first-hand experience of different project activities. A demonstration of ballot box exercise (BBE) could be organized, if desired by any member.
 6. MoEF believes that SPACC project has a good potential and has written to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, to introduce him to the project. MoEF is willing to facilitate a State-level dissemination workshop inviting Chief Secretary, Principal Secretaries, and District Collectors to ensure wider replication and uptake. A national-level workshop will be planned after a state-level workshop. The partner NGOs should invite the District Collectors to the district-level workshops.
 7. MoEF is willing to support up-scaling and phase-II of the SPACC project. FAO needs to closely follow with MoEF, on this. MoEF sees at SPACC NGO network as an institutional model for up-scaling. While up-scaling or uptake by the government, sustainability of knowledge support should be ensured through embedding the Project Management Unit in its operational structure.
 8. The main focus of the Government of India for the GEF-6 cycle is adaptation. India will host GEF-6 Replenishment Negotiation Meet, in September 2013. SPACC project is one of the three potential projects for field visit during the meet. MoEF will visit Hyderabad and Coimbatore in the next 10 days to finalize the field visit site. If Hyderabad (SPACC project) is selected for the field visit, MoEF will work closely with the project team to make necessary arrangement, including preparation of communication material for distribution among the delegates.

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



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**Fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting
12th June, 2013, Hotel Minerva Grand, Secunderabad**

Programme

- 09.45 Registration**
- 10.00 Welcome** by the Member Secretary
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 10.05 **Opening Remarks** by the Honorable Chairman
Dr. D. V. Raidu, IAS, State Project Advisor, CMSA SERP DRD, GoAP
- 10.15 Progress Review**
- 10.15 Presentation on Outcome 1A: Baseline Study and Participatory Climate Monitoring
Mr. Anil Rautray, Subject Expert – Water Management
- 10.35 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 11.45 Presentation on Outcome 1B and 3A (Institutions) and 2A (Farmer Climate Schools)
Mr. C. Konda Reddy, Subject Expert – Community Organization
- 11.05 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
- 12.35 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 12.45 Presentation on Outcome 3A: Documentation and Dissemination; and Project
Management
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 13.00 Reflections**
- 13.00 Reflections of the honorable PSC members
- 13.30 Reflections of the FAO Support Mission to SPACC
Ms. Rikke Olivera, GEF Coordination Cell, FAO Head Quarters (Rome)
- 13.40 Closing Remarks**
Dr. D. V. Raidu, Chairman of PSC
- 13.50 Vote of Thanks** by the Member Secretary
Dr. S. V. Govardhan Das, Project Manager
- 14.00 Lunch and disburse**