

# Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS) Bagepalli 561 207

## 6 Month Activity Report

*Period: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010*

*6<sup>th</sup> Consortium Project Numbers: Icco 03-02-00-679 & EED 20090222 G*

*"Coolie Sangha Building in Chickballapur District"*

### A. COOLIE FAMILIES FULLY ACCESS ALL STATE WELFARE & TRANSFERS

#### REVIVING UNITY & DISCIPLINE IN ALL VILLAGE CSUs

##### STAFF & FUNCTIONARIES

#### A.3. Election of 2 CSU Representatives per village every year

50 Representatives are changed by Field staff in the past 6 months. Field workers and Mahila Trainers concentrated on CSU Meetings which had got weakened over the years with irregular meetings. They encouraged Member Coolies from such villages to re-elect senior and experienced Members as CSU Representatives. Some of the ones who were changed were not even informing Member Coolie families as to what was discussed in the Taluk Coolie Sangha meetings and vice-versa.

4 CSU Representatives from Chickballapur were changed for health reasons and another 3 because they migrated for city jobs.

▪ Bagepalli	31
▪ Gudibanda	7
▪ Chickballapur	10
▪ Siddalaghatta	2
▪ Chintamani	7

#### A.4. Annual Election and orientation of 87 Cluster Secretaries

9 Cluster Secretaries are changed through elections during this reporting period – 4 because they had become irregular, 2 of them because they had become political touts, 1 got selected to work as Field Worker in ADATS, 1 got elected as Taluk Secretary in Chintamani, and 1 because he had served as Cluster Secretary for the past 15 years.

In Gudibanda and Siddalaghatta Taluks, all the older Cluster Secretaries got re-elected.

##### MEMBERSHIP

#### A.7. Identification of women as family managers and altering CSU membership to women's names (every year)

76 women in Bagepalli and Chintamani Taluks were identified as family managers. But the Mahila Meetings did not follow through and change memberships to their names.

#### A.8. Motivation of Coolie youth to represent families and alteration of CSU membership

23 Coolie youth were motivated to represent their families in CSU Meetings. But membership was not altered to their names.

#### A.9. Annual membership appraisal at Executive Committee Meetings

This is an activity that is carried out in November every year.

43 Executive meeting were conducted during this reporting period. Annual membership issues were not discussed since this had been done in the previous 6 months. Instead, discussions focussed on:

The common agendas of the executive meetings held during this reporting period are

- Regularity of CSU & Mahila meetings
- Cheating and Irregularity in PDS, mismanagement in government hospitals
- Problems related to the stoppage of central scholarship discussions for Coolie children – Mahila Meetings to decide on their own, using Sangha Funds
- Executing Participating Agreements, Planting Agreement and collecting Title Deeds.
- Validation of Bagepalli Reforestation CDM by TÜV SÜD
- Collecting demographic and baseline data for a Woodstoves CDM Project
- Performance appraisal of a pilot conducted with 1,000 fuel efficient woodstoves given to 500 Coolie women.
- Facilitating/training 6 other NGOs on collecting demographic data, taking GPS reading for LCF, etc.
- CCF & Celina Fund repayment issues
- Selecting non-CSU villages for the BCS Biogas CDM Project
- Verification of CERs generated in the ADATS/VELCAN Bagepalli Biogas CDM Project
- BCS Biogas Gold Standard validation

#### A.10. Conducting 500 weekly CSU Meetings

1½ years back, when we made our 10 year Strategic Plan and 3 year LogFrame, ADATS frankly admitted that the regularity of village CSU and Mahila Meetings had severely slackened. We identified several reasons for this – Staff lethargy, Member family lethargy, complacency with the sociopolitical gains obtained, and a general taking for granted of economic gains.

We realised that this was a very dangerous trend. The core ideology of the Coolie Sangha would be maintained only if there were regular and disciplined village level meetings, week after week, without fail, and for no reason other than a getting together.

As can be seen from the below table, Bagepalli CSUs have genuinely corrected the trend while Chintamani still has a long way to go.

	Villages who realise that basic ideology of Unity has to be revived and have therefore started meeting regularly	Villages who meet only when ADATS Staff attend or have a major decision to record	Total
<b>Bagepalli</b>	102 (100%)	-	102 (100%)
<b>Gudibanda</b>	43 (80%)	11 (20%)	54 (100%)
<b>Chickballapur</b>	40 (58%)	29 (42%)	69 (100%)
<b>Siddalaghatta</b>	64 (72%)	25 (28%)	89 (100%)
<b>Chintamani</b>	46 (39%)	73 (61%)	119 (100%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>295 (68%)</b>	<b>138 (32%)</b>	<b>433 (100%)</b>

#### A.11. CSU level resolution of inter-Coolie squabbles

A total of 59 inter-Coolie squabbles were solved by the village CSUs during this reporting period. It is not that Bagepalli Taluk had more in-fighting and Siddalaghatta less. It is just that when Member Coolie families meet regularly, every single week, problems come to light and silly-serious issues are settled then and there.

	Land Issues	Police Cases settled in CSU Meetings	House site Issues	Use of Community Hall	Water Tap Issue	Irrigation Water	Total
<b>Bagepalli</b>	21	15	9				45
<b>Gudibanda</b>	2		1	1			4
<b>Chickballapur</b>			2		1		3
<b>Siddalaghatta</b>	1		1				2
<b>Chintamani</b>	1	1	2			1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>

#### A.12. Responsive Legal Aid & Aid Distress for land and wage struggles

A total of ₹ 112,700 was given out as aid distress and another ₹ 17,000 as legal aid during this reporting period.

This was for various purposes like houses burnt due to fire accidents, ₹ 200 a month for a grandmother to feed her grandchild whose mother died during childbirth, etc.

#### 87 WEEKLY CLUSTER MEETS

#### A.13. Conducting 87 weekly Cluster Meets attended by CSU Representatives and ADATS Field Staff

Of the 87 clusters 65 clusters are holding regular weekly meeting. Another 22 clusters holding meetings but not on a regular basis.

Below there is a table which shows the Number of meeting conducted by each cluster in all the 5 Extensions , Also shows how many regular, irregular in holding Clusters meetings and Of the conducted meetings, for how many meetings staff able to attend.

Taluk	Clusters	Regular meetings	Irregular meetings
Bagepalli	24	20	4
Gudibanda	10	8	2
Chickballapur	16	12	4
Siddalaghatta	15	12	3
Chintamani	22	13	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>22</b>

#### A.15. Scrutiny and approval of CCF decisions

Just 2 loans worth ₹ 12,000 were given out during this reporting period in Bagepalli Taluk.

#### A.18. Conducting 2-day Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings every month, attended by CS Functionaries and ADATS Staff

6 Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings were to be conducted in all 5 extensions. In Bagepalli, Gudibanda and Chintamani only 5 meetings were held. The reasons for cancellation were due to cropping, a festival that fell on the same day, and unseasonal rains.

In Chickballapur and Siddalaghatta of all 6 meetings were held. 4 were held for 2 days and another 2 were held for only 1day due to festival and cropping.

#### A.19. Election of 5 Taluk Secretaries every year: alternate annually by sex

During this reporting period 4 elections were conducted in the month of June & July for the post of Taluk Secretary.

- In Bagepalli and Siddalaghatta 2 candidates each contested
- In Chintamani, 4 contested and elections were tough
- In Chickballapur, the erstwhile Taluk Secretary was unanimously re-elected for a second term

#### A.20. to A.23. Running of the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings

The main agendas of the 5 Taluk CS Meetings were A/R CDM Validation, land Title Deeds, feedback on the new BCS Biogas CDM Project, GP Elections, regularity of meetings, irregularity in PDS, Woodstoves CDM preparation, Life Skill trainings, Village Bankers, Pending NREGA bills, Celina Fund & CCF repayment

#### A.27. Support to Gram Panchayat level issues and struggles that emanate from identifying leakages in the implementation of the EGA

22 Protests were held at the Gram Panchayat level. Of them, 18 were in Bagepalli Taluk against corrupt Gram Panchayat Secretaries for delaying last year's NREGA wage payments. Filed Staff took special interest and collected details regarding each pending payment and sent a consolidated report to Government of India. 1 Gram Panchayat Secretary was transferred to another district through CSU pressure.

In Gudibanda & Chickballapur 4 protests were held – 3 for delaying the NREGA wage payment and another for selectively issuing Job Cards.

In Chintamani, 5 major protests were held in front of the Taluk Panchayat Office against the Executive Officer.

#### A.28. to A.32. Making annual Customer Demands & Satisfaction (CD&S) Surveys of pressing needs by 14,609 Member families

No Customer Demand & Satisfaction(CD&S) survey has been done during this reporting period.

### B. COOLIE WOMEN ATTAIN A PERSON STATUS WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES

#### VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

##### B.1. Holding weekly *in camera* Mahila Meetings in 500 villages

Due to the regular discussions on ideology at Taluk CS Meetings, Executive Meetings and Cluster Meets, 313 villages conducted regular weekly Mahila Meetings.

Discussions centred around entering children's data, monitoring and repair of the ADATS/VELCAN Biogas units, selecting non-CSU villages and End Users for the BCS Biogas project, repayment of CCF, selecting Woodstoves End Users, Family Planning operations, women's health issues, changing Balakendra Teachers, and *Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu*.

##### B.2. Reviewing *Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu* usage and replenishing "lost" capital with Sangha Funds

In Bagepalli Taluk VSD funds were replenished. But in the other Taluks, nothing was done.

##### B.3. Checking that CSU Membership is in names of women family managers (every year)

Please see # A.7.

##### B.4. Heightened support to inter-caste marriages and festivals

165 Marriages took place during this reporting period. Of them, 33 were choice marriages supported by CSU.

2 inter-caste marriages took place in Chickballapur. One between a Harijana girl & Vokkaliga boy and another between a Harijana Girl and Brahmin boy. CSU & Mahila meeting helped both couples get their marriages registered and ADATS staff helped them to get city jobs in a garment factory.

##### B.5. Election and skill/ assertiveness training of Women's Committee Members

12 Women's Committee Members were replaced during this reporting period – 6 replaced due to irregularity and negligence in attending Mahila meeting, 3 due to health problems, 1 was too old to travel the neighbouring CSUs, and 1 due to taking anti-CSU behaviour during the recent GP Elections. A new WC Member was appointed to fill a vacancy.

##### B.6. Compulsory attendance of 87 WC Members at all CSU and Mahila Meetings

50 Women's Committee members attended Mahila Meetings every fortnight. Gudibanda Taluk still doesn't have WC Members.

#### B.7. Monthly skill upgradation and procurement of basic medicines for VHWs

During Taluk CS Meetings, basic medicine kit were given to the Village Health Workers. In Bagepalli, 2 special trainings were conducted for VHWs during this reporting period. One on how to properly use Woodstoves, and another one how to use the newly introduced 108 Ambulance service of government.

#### B.8. Disposition funds to conduct surgeries and treat advanced reproductive ailment patients

Mahila Trainers Listed 127 women suffering from prolapsed uterus. Of that 36 women underwent surgeries through ADATS at private Hospitals, 10 women underwent surgeries on their own at Government hospitals and another 2 women underwent surgeries through regular Camps Conducted by Specialized hospitals.

#### B.10. Providing ambulance services for hauling patients from villages to government hospitals

ADATS vehicles were used 68 times to provide ambulance services during this reporting period – 39 to take patients to specialized hospitals, 13 to bring back dead bodies, 13 for deliveries, and 3 to shift snake bite cases from village to local government hospitals.

### C. SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES ADOPTED

#### C.1. Transferring of properties in the names of wives

62 house sites were changed in the name of women with the help of ADATS staff. But this cannot be attributed to our political stand. It is because it's mandatory that properties be in women's names to avail free housing benefits from the government.

#### C.2. Decisions on crop choice, loan and collective sale taken in Mahila Meetings

This year, the crops were really very good. Though a little unseasonal, most farmers were able to adjust their sowing and other operations to suit the erratic rains.

In Bagepalli and Siddalaghatta Taluks, 54 Mahila Meetings took formal decisions on crop choices during this reporting period, and enforced these decisions. No collective decisions were made by Mahila Meetings in Gudibanda, Chickballapur and Chintamani.

But 19 women had from the 3 Taluks did decide to crop their own lands without male support. In 5 other cases at Chintamani, men attempted to sell food grains in the market, but their wives prevented them.

#### C.4. Encroaching and cultivating adjacent govt waste lands

Even after 2½ years, the State Government has not formed proper Darkhast Committees to consider the distribution of so-called "waste lands" to the poor. In spite of this, Bagepalli Field Staff collected all necessary documents required for encroaching and cultivating adjacent govt waste land from 90 CSU Members. They then put pressure on the local MLA to get the Darkhast Committee formed. The Committee met once, but did not take a single decision.

The same MLA formed another Darkhast Committee at Gudibanda. 45 applications have been submitted for issue of Saguvali Chitti.

#### C.6. Redeeming and protection of mortgaged lands

No such cases found in any of the 5 Taluks.

### E. COOLIE CHILDREN

#### E.1. & E.2. Listing of school-age children by Mahila Meetings

This academic year, Balakendra Teachers listed 449 children from 5 Taluks, who are in *Anganwadis* (Under 5 crèches) and discussed regarding to their admission into 1<sup>st</sup> Std. in their Mahila Meeting. As a result, all 449 children were admitted to regular government schools.

Apart from that, Balakendra Teachers brought Marks Cards of the school going children and entered data into our database. Through that it was very easy to keep a track on school going Children and their progress.

Below there is a Gender Analysis of the Children for the Academic year 2009-10

	Children		Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle	Upper
<b>Primary School (1 to 5)</b>	5,765	31%	50%	50%	54%	17%	30%
<b>Middle School (6 to 7)</b>	3,522	19%	50%	50%	54%	18%	29%
<b>High School (8 to 10)</b>	6,928	37%	50%	50%	53%	18%	29%
<b>PUC</b>	1,132	6%	54%	46%	45%	18%	37%
<b>Degree</b>	850	5%	65%	35%	43%	16%	41%
<b>Diploma/Other</b>	346	2%	68%	32%	42%	14%	44%
<b>NFE</b>	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,581</b>		<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>30%</b>

90% of School Age Children (i.e. 5-16 age group) from Active Member families in functioning CSUs are in School

#### E.4. Appointing *Balakendra* Teachers and train on teaching skills

53 Balakendra Teachers were appointed during this reporting period. Of them, Mahila Meetings changed 18 because they were inefficient, and another 35 were vacancies refilled. A special test was conducted to the all the above before selection.

This academic year a new syllabus was designed by our Teacher Trainers, focusing mainly on teaching children through Activity Based Learning. Apart from that, special training was given on hygiene, time discipline, how to build leadership qualities in children, team work in all activities.

New Balakendra Teachers were taught to monitor Daily Usage of Biogas units. And special training has given to all Balakendra Teachers how to use indoor games.

#### E.5. Conducting every evening *Balakendra* classes in 478 villages for children to learn and play

There are 483 functioning village CSUs in 5 Taluks. But only 388 CSUs have Balakendra Teachers. In the remaining 95 CSUs, Balakendra Teachers were removed by Mahila Meetings in the past 2 months due to irregularity and negligence towards children. This is a double edged sword. It shows that Mahila Meetings are strict and unsparing, but it also means that we have to conduct child related activities without a cadre in those villages.

Of the 388, 313 Balakendra Teachers conduct classes every evening between 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm. The Remaining 75 are College students who come back to their villages late, and open their Balakendra only at 6:30 pm. But even before that, small children gather and just play around for an hour.

#### E.6. Need assessment and allocation of scholarship benefits by Mahila Meetings

Not a single Mahila Meeting was able to take a hard decision and decide to give scholarship benefit selectively only to deserving children. They expected ADATS to do this, and there was a serious standoff between the NGO and CBO.

Instead they focused on the timely and rent-free delivery of government benefits like free books, uniforms, bicycles, medical check-up, mid-day meals, etc.

Towards the end of this reporting period, there was much grumbling with complaints that their children did not get cash scholarship. We insisted that we would not mobilise any moneys for this purpose, since the government was doing enough and more. Then were the threats that they would vote against Coolie Sangha supported candidates in local body elections. We said please do. And finally, that they would not pay Sangha Tax and renew membership in December. We replied that was brilliant!

None of the threats have materialised to date, at the time of writing this report. These are just the stances and postures taken when there is a sudden change in a 33 year old habit...

#### E.7. Distribution of child scholarships for 9,595 children in Middle & High School classes, based on support table

No scholarship has been distributed till reporting period, and Mahila Meetings are still deciding on who to give scholarships to.

As per our database, the number of children eligible for scholarships are:

	Children	Amount
<b>Eligible for Scholarship</b>	12,372	Rs.59,64,900
<b>LESS: Children from Families who had not paid up their Sangha Tax</b>	1,635	Rs. 7,82,100
<b>Therefore can Give</b>	10,737	Rs.51,82,800
<b>Scholarships Given Out</b>	0	0
<b>Yet to Give</b>	10,737	Rs.51,82,800



## F. COOLIE YOUTH

### F.1. Forming Youth Groups

All 80 Cluster level Youth Groups were formed during the previous reporting period. They were supposed to hold meetings once a fortnight, but they are holding once a month. The main agendas of the meeting are discussion on how to access government benefits for students, obtain subsidized loans, Gram Panchayat elections, importance of Life Skill Training, finding city jobs for schooled and unemployed youth, and how to avoid drop-out of girls after 2<sup>nd</sup> year PUC.

### F.3. Supporting College Children

This academic year 2,328 youth were in college and their data was entered into the ADATS database. But no scholarships were given out directly by us. Instead, we gave each Youth Group a grant to decide on their own as to the quantum and type of assistance they wanted to give their members.

ADATS Staff supported 128 youth get scholarships from the government.