

ADATS – 9 year Intervention Strategy for Coolie Sangha Building

1st Year Coolie Sangha Formation	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year Coolie Sangha Formalisation	5th Year	6th Year	7th Year	8th Year	9th Year Coolie Sangha Consolidation	10th Year	11th Year	12th Year	13th Year Independent Coolie Sangha
<u>1. COMMUNITY ORGANISATION</u>												
<u>1.1. ADATS Staff & elected Coolie Sangha Functionaries</u>												
ADATS paid Community Workers (1 for every 5-6 villages)			Elected Cluster Secretaries (1 for every 5-6 villages)						(paid from Sangha Funds)			
ADATS paid Village Level Workers (VLWs)												
Elections for 3 Reps per CSU			Annual Elections for 3 CSU Representatives per village (1 of them compulsorily a Woman CSU Member)									
ADATS paid Village Health Workers (VHWs)						(paid from Decentralised Budgets)			(paid from Sangha Funds)			
ADATS paid Field Assistant (1 for an Area of 60 villages)												
ADATS paid Area Field Workers (1 for every 30 villages – i.e. 5 Community Workers)												
ADATS paid Mahila Trainers (1 for every 60 villages)												
						Elected Taluk Secretary			(paid from Sangha Funds)			
<u>1.2. Meetings of the Coolie Sangha</u>												
CSU Meetings (in each village, on fixed days every week, with quorum of two-third the membership, and minutes recorded)												
Mahila Meetings (in each village, on fixed days every week)												
Cluster Meets (on fixed days every week, all the CSU Reps attending, points of working contact between ADATS and Coolie Sangha)												
Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings (2 days every month, attended by all the CSU Representatives and Cluster Secretaries)												
Executive Committee Meetings (every fortnight, attended by all the Cluster Secretaries and Taluk Secretary)												
										Women's Committee Meetings (every fortnight)		

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1.3. Support to Issues & Struggle

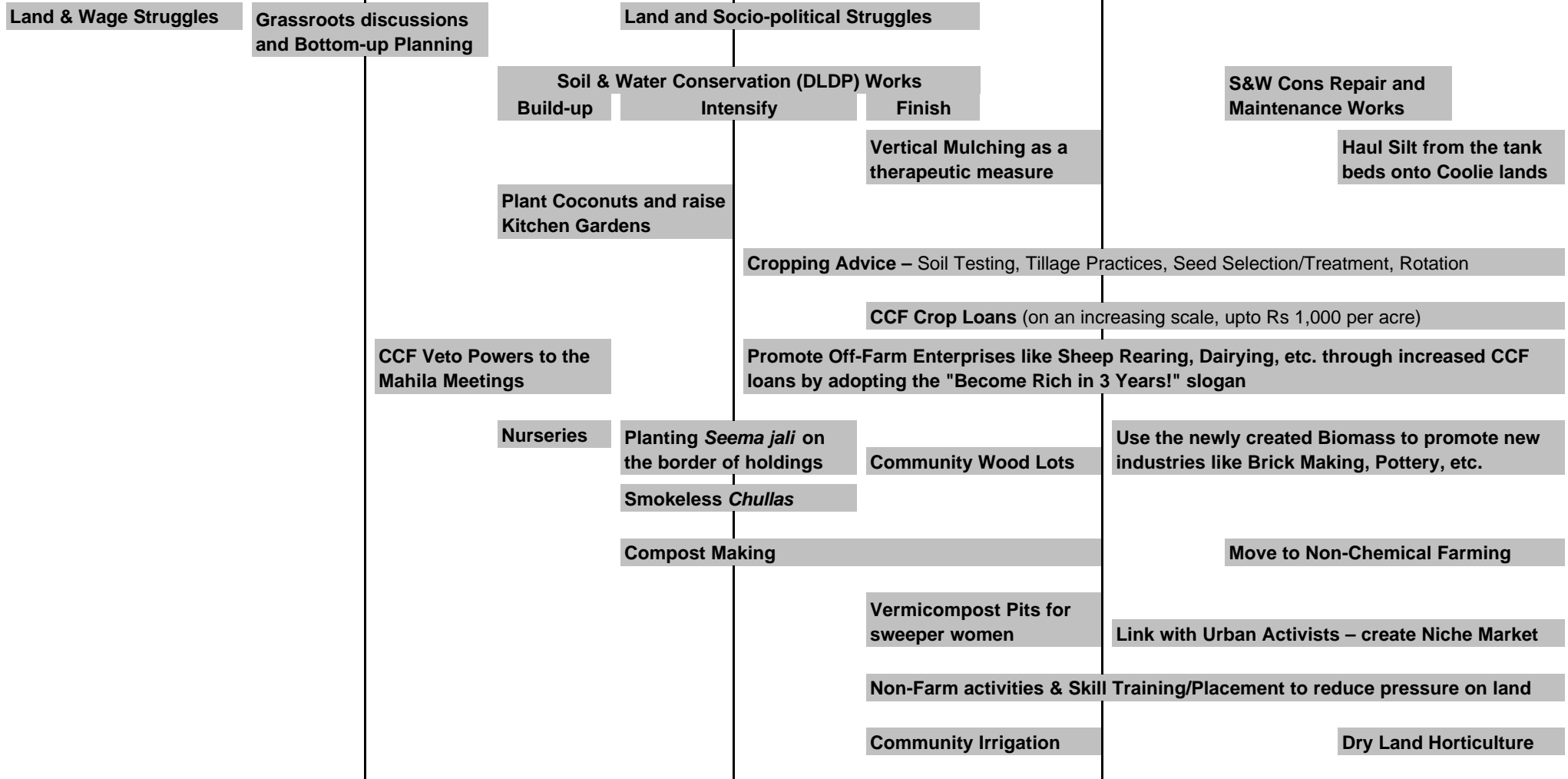
Socio-political Survey			Tentative statement on the political economy of the taluk/region			Offer a definite theory that lends to good strategies, using the principle of effective minority						
Build a family wise data base			Check for accuracy through constant usage			Constantly monitor trends like membership, ethnic coverage, etc.			Coolie Sangha functionaries to themselves maintain the data base and interpret trends			
Orientation & Training for CWs		Skill Training for VLWs										
3 rounds of ALP Classes – voluntary, compulsory, exclusive for women			Training for CSU Representatives and Cluster Secretaries			Special training and reflection sessions, and concrete preparations for Withdrawal						
Settling down problems		Village Staff to liaise with Banks and Government Agencies	Coolie struggle for benefits from Local Bodies			Coolie Sangha candidates to contest Panchayat Raj Institutions – Gram Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat elections (develop into an effective minority, influence their functioning, and decide on the allocation of government resource)						
Land & Wage Struggles			Land & Socio-political Struggles									
Legal Aid and Aid Distress												
Build up the Physical Infrastructure												
Open Bank Accounts and select Signatories		Hundis to collect 10% of earnings, from whatever source						Sangha Tax whereby Member Coolies declare income and pay a Tax				
			Decentralised village corpus to have reached Rs 500 per Member			Decentralised village corpus to have reached Rs 1,500 per Member			Mahila Meetings to spend Sangha Fund collections without male interference			
<u>Destroy the Culture of Poverty</u> * Get rid of apathy and a crushing dependence on Ryots * Introduce the formality and discipline needed for effective unity * Develop self worth, confidence and a distinct identity * Achieve a unity across caste lines			<u>Establish an Alternate Lifestyle</u> * Effect a deeper unification across narrow and parochial caste lines * Replace the false security of patron-client relations with one where the Individual is supported and also controlled by the Community * Tilt the power balance at village level			<u>Establish Sustainable Practices</u> * Prepare for Posterity – strengthen mechanisms like Sangha Tax, etc. * Strengthen self-correction measures * Position the Coolies as an Effective Minority to influence, if not determine the power balance at the taluk level *			<u>Post-withdrawal Potential of Coolie Sangha</u> * Articulate happenings in the independent Coolie Sangha and involve new actors/partners * Plug in the Coolies to the outside world * Offer the unique utilisation capacity obtained through a sense of the collective * Translate the position of vantage achieved by the Coolie Sangha into platforms of strength			

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2. COOLIE WOMEN												
Mahila Meetings (in each village, on fixed days every week, attended by 1 woman from each Member Family)												
Train VHWs and start Basic Health Services			Decentralised Health Budget (operated by the Mahila Meetings)			Decentralised Children's Budget (operated by the Mahila Meetings)			Health and Children's activities continued by the independent Coolie Sangha with Sangha Funds			
VSD Grants of Rs 2,000 per Mahila Meeting			Further VSD Grants of Rs 3,000 per Mahila Meeting to build up a capital of Rs 5,000 per village			Link to specialised NGOs and GOs						
VSD			Vokkaku Sanchi Duddu (informal petty credit fund managed by each Mahila Meeting)									
Internal Resistance from male Members to strengthening Coolie women			Issues related to internal rectification (including marriage age, schooling the Girl Child, wife beating, desertion, etc.)			Mahila Meetings to spend Sangha Fund collections without male interference						
			CCF Veto Powers to the Mahila Meetings			Struggles for equal wages for women and men			Women's Land Struggles			
									Women's Fund to address the problems of single women			
<u>Get Coolie women out of their homes and assert a Personal Identity</u>			<u>Address Practical and Strategic Gender needs of Coolie women</u>			<u>Actively participate in their families as decision makers</u>			<u>Achieve a Gender bias free status for Coolie women</u>			
* Introduce the policy of positive discrimination in favour of women			* Community Health and Children's Education through decentralised budgets handled by Mahila Meetings			* Obtain an active role and decision making right in Agriculture			* Active participation within the Coolie Sangha			
* Establish the practice of weekly Mahila Meetings			* Petty credit to tackle sexual exploitation			* Obtain economic decision making rights within the family			* Active participation in village society			
* Set up instruments to serve a socio-political purpose of strengthening the position of Coolie women			* Question the domestic rote role and gender based division of labour						* Address questions of sexuality, including choice marriage, widow re-marriage, right to work, etc.			

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3. ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES – Coolie Credit Funds (CCFs)												
Grassroots discussions & bottom-up planning			CCF Veto Powers to the Mahila Meetings									
Open Bank Accounts and select Signatories		Initial CCF Grants (Rs 500 per family)	Further CCF Grants (to per capita of Rs 2,500 per Member family)			Final CCF Grants (to per capita of Rs 5,000 per Member family)			Plough in Sangha Funds (to make up for Capital loss and drop in Rupee value)			
Petty borrowing			Bigger borrowing for productive purposes			Promote Off-Farm Enterprises like Sheep Rearing, Dairying, etc. through increased CCF loans, and by adopting the "Become Rick in 3 Years!" slogan						
						CCF Crop Loans on an increasing scale, upto Rs 1,000 per acre						
						Safety Net for entrepreneurs who fail despite best efforts						
						Conduct Micro-Economic Studies						
						Tap Block Loans from Financial Institutions for Non-Farm ventures						
						Tap Soft Loans and Grants from bi-lateral agencies for long term investments						
						Experiment, on a limited scale, with ethnic investments for those who cannot enterprise (the aged, disabled, etc.)						
Establish the CCFs			Wean first-time Entrepreneurs			Pursue serious Economic Goals			Link to wider Financial Institutions/Markets			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Encourage grassroots reflections on usury and it's consequences * Establish village level, decentralised transparent credit structures which are controlled by Member Coolies themselves * Pursue socio-political goals 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Destroy a deliberately inculcated fiscal indiscipline in the poor * Achieve an artificially high 97% Repayment Rate with 100% Capital Rotation * Begin to articulate socio-economic goals for the credit operation 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Create a socio-political milieu for entrepreneurship * Establish a balance between the individual and the community * Avoid the tendency toward <i>laissez faire</i> – i.e. middle class mentality * Achieve a minimum family income of Rs 500 per month for the poorest 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Make serious long term investments on land and agriculture * Stabilise at 86% Repayment Rate after 400% Capital Rotation – i.e. accept a 16% Capital Loss at the end of a 10 year CCF life span * Chase after deliberately high targets for income and assets 			

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4. ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES – Dry Land Development Programme (DLDP)



<p><u>Non-cultivating Labourers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Seasonal migration, lack of status in the village * Lack of proper land titles * Leaving lands barren * No draught animals or implements 	<p><u>Consolidate Subsistence Agriculture Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Efforts to bring the coolies into the mainstream of peasant cultivation as tillers and marketers of agricultural produce * Increase wages; Equal wages for women and men * Promote Off-Farm ventures * Create a food security for the poor 	<p><u>Move towards Sustainable Land Use Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Alternate cropping practices, including multiple cropping * Organic Cultivation – Niche Market * Diversify into Non-farm Activities * Common watering and Dry Land Horticulture
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