

Energy demand study: A study to determine the electricity demand, optimum size and location of gasifier system has been commissioned for Madhugiri cluster.

Preparation of GIS maps: The project has taken action to prepare digital data base of the project villages for monitoring of project implementation. GIS maps have been prepared for the homestead land in Koratagere and Madhugiri clusters. Digital cadastral maps have been prepared for all the project villages to provide information on socio-economic resource endowments.

PROJECT MONITORING

Project Steering Committee meetings: The fifth meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 30th March, 2004 and 29th July, 2004 at Bangalore, under the Chairmanship of Shri. Vijay Gore, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka.

The sixth meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 27th September, 2004 at Bangalore, under the Chairmanship of Shri. Chiranjiv Singh, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka. Some important decisions taken in the meeting include:

- Approval of agency for setting up phase-2 of gasifier systems (300 KW) in the Koratagere cluster
- Approval for the tender process for procurement and installation of weigh bridge in the gasifier plant location
- Commissioning of a study on technical and economic performance of gasifier systems installed in South India
- Approval for initiation of project activity at Yelehalli village of Chickballapur taluka in Kolar district
- Approval for setting up of 25 new community biogas plants in the project villages

Review of forestry activities: A review of the progress of the forestry activities under the project was held on 28th May, 2004 at Tumkur. Shri. Muni Reddy, Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) participated in the review meeting along with Conservator of Forests, Hassan Circle and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Tumkur and staff. After field inspection of decentralised nurseries and plantations in Sira and Koratagere clusters, the physical and financial progress of the forestry activities undertaken by the Forest Department in the project area were reviewed.

Visit of UNDP/ICEF representatives:

1. Smt Usha Rao, Programme Officer, UNDP and Shri. Kumar Tikku, Information Officer, UNDP on 3rd and 4th March, 2004.



Shri. Ujjwal Choudhary, interacting with BUG members, Chikkannahally (Koratagere)

2. Shri. Ujjwal Choudhary, Director, ICEF and Shri. Sunil Arora, Programme Officer, UNDP, on 31st March, 2004.
3. Dr. Neera Burra, Asst. Resident Representative, UNDP visited project office on 14th June, 2004 and 3rd September, 2004 and held discussion on the objectives and impact of the project.
4. Smt. Usha Rao and Shri. Sunil Arora of UNDP on 23rd June, 2004.
5. Shri. Bhaskar Natarajan, Programme Officer, ICEF on 9th September, 2004.



Mr. Simon Long with SHG members, Chikkannahalli (Koratagere)

Other Visits to the project area:

1. Mr. Simon Long, Regional Editor (Asia) of the 'Economist' magazine and Shri. T. R. Raghunandan, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, GOK on 10th March, 2004.
2. Dr. A. Tripathi and Dr.(Mrs.) Dhameja, Directors from the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, Government of India.
3. Mr. Stephen Howes, Lead Economist, World Bank, New Delhi officer.
4. A team from Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on 16th April, 2004, accompanied by Shri. Muni Reddy, Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).