

5. Dr.S.N.Rai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka on 17th May, 2004.
6. Delegates of the regional workshop on rural energy organised by The Energy Research Institute (TERI) on 11th July, 2004.



Dr.S.N.Rai, PCCF, interacting with SHG members, DCN, Aijjenahalli (Koratagere)

Presentations on the project: Shri. S.C.Khuntia, Project Coordinator attended several conferences and made presentations on the project approach, strategies and the progress. Some of the important conferences where presentations were made include:

- i. Workshop organised by Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources(MNES), GOI on 6th April, 2004 at New Delhi, and,
- ii. Conference on “Renewable Energy for the Future The Way Forward” organised by ICEF on 1-3 June, 2004 at Kolkata.

Shri. Khuntia made a presentation as a resource person at a meeting of 10 states on “Village Energy Security Programme” organised by MNES at New Delhi on 15th June, 2004. Shri. Khuntia also made a presentation on “Biomass Development Strategies for a rural energy project” in a National Workshop on “Renewable Energy for Rural Areas” organised by MNES for the DRDAs and Forest Department Officers at New Delhi on 26th July, 2004. He inaugurated a workshop on CDM issues for Policy-makers in South India organised by TERI in Bangalore on 22nd March, 2004 and chaired a session on “Facilitating CDM implementation in India”.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Several programmes were organised for building the capacity of the community for sustainable management of bioenergy and end use systems. Some of the key programmes include.

- Training on “Tree Based Farming - Technical models and Implementation process” for the staff of the cluster NGOs

- Exposure visits of farmers to TBF sites in Koratagere cluster of the project and Tiptur and Dharwad clusters of BAIF
- Training on SHG concept and Accounts maintenance for the newly formed SHGs in the project area
- Training on Joint Forest Planning and Management and working of VFC for the office bearers of all the VFCs in the project area
- Training on VFC Accounts and Record Keeping for the Presidents and Secretaries of all VFCs and the staff of cluster NGOs
- Training on operation and maintenance of submersible pumpsets for WUA members

CONVERGENCE OF PROGRAMMES

Nirmala Grama Yojane: Based on a request by the project, Zilla Panchayat, Tumkur had sanctioned construction of 117 toilets under NGY in Koratagere cluster. Facilitated by the project, 71 toilets have been constructed in Koratagere cluster by individual beneficiaries at a cost which is 10% less than the estimated cost. The entire process of procurement of materials and monitoring of the quality of the construction was carried out by the community through the Village Bio-Energy Management Committees. Now, 46 households in other four clusters have come forward to participate in the programme.



◀ A toilet constructed under NGY, Kabbigere (Koratagere)

Animal Health Camp: An animal health camp was organised at Kabbigere on 1st March, 2004 for health checkup of livestock in the first cluster. About 300 cattle were brought by the villagers to the camp manned by the doctors from the Department of Animal Husbandary and Veterinary Services, GOK. Medicines were also distributed. Later, a function was organised in which villagers were given information by experts on the cultivation of fodder crops. It is proposed to hold similar camps for all the villages of the project.