

PROJECT PROGRESS

Community Mobilisation

Participatory Rural Appraisal: PRA activities have been completed for 24 habitations comprising of 20 revenue villages and 4 hamlets in the four new clusters of Sira, Madhugiri, Tumkur and Gubbi. Base line information has been collected for these habitations. PRA exercises were not conducted in 2 revenue villages due to lack of adequate interest by the villagers. These exercises were greatly helpful in creating awareness amongst the villagers about the project and also enabled the project authorities and the cluster NGOs to build initial rapport with the villagers.

Some of the key features of the project villages as compiled from PRA reports are given below:

Demographic Composition:

| Cluster | Villages | Total HHs | SC/ST HHs | Landless HHs |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Koratagere | 5 | 446 | 147 (33%) | 25 (5.6%) |
| Madhugiri | 5 | 539 | 227 (42.1%) | 67 (12.4%) |
| Sira | 6 | 777 | 383 (49.3%) | 71 (9.1%) |
| Gubbi | 6 | 632 | 278 (44%) | 53 (8.4%) |
| Tumkur | 6 | 626 | 203 (32.4%) | 40 (6.4%) |
| Total | 28 | 3020 | 1238 (41%) | 256 (8.5%) |

Three villages v.i.z., Saluparahalli (Sira taluka), Veerannahalli (Madhugiri taluka) and Revanalu (Gubbi taluka) have predominant SC/ST population.

Electrification: Only three fifth of the households in the project area are electrified. The details are given below:

| Cluster | Total hhs | Electricified HHs | % age | Irrign Pumpsets (Nos.) |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Koratagere | 446 | 247 | 55.4 | 87 |
| Madhugiri | 539 | 320 | 59.4 | 53 |
| Sira | 777 | 442 | 56.9 | 163 |
| Gubbi | 632 | 337 | 53.3 | 120 |
| Tumkur | 626 | 464 | 74.1 | 203 |
| Total | 3020 | 1810 | 59.9 | 626 |

Formation of village level institutions:

Mobilising the community into various village level institutions for implementation of the project has been a key activity. Following groups were formed by the project in the project villages during February, 2004 to September, 2004.

- Village Bio-Energy Management Committees (VBEMC)
 - Formed earlier - 4
 - Newly formed - 2
 - Promoters' committees formed - 16
- Village Forest Committees (VFC)
 - Base line - 6
 - Formed earlier - 14
 - Newly formed - 6
- Self Help Groups (SHG)
 - Base line - 70
 - Formed earlier - 25
 - Newly formed - 43
- Biogas User Groups (BUG)
 - Formed earlier - 5
 - Newly operationalised - 28
- Water User Associations (WUA)
 - Operationalised - 5
 - Under process - 22

Formation of SHGs, particularly of women, is one of the key strategies of the project for ensuring empowerment. Apart from strengthening the existing SHGs formed under various programmes, the project is actively promoting formation of new SHGs, so as to ensure 100 % coverage of households in the project area.

Efforts made by the project have enhanced the total number of women SHGs from a baseline figure of 68 SHGs (with 1062 members) to 127 SHGs (with 1940 members). Till the end of September, 2004, 64.2 % of households have women SHG members as indicated in the following table:

| Cluster | Baseline | | Project SHGS | | % HHs Covered |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| | SHG (nos) | Members | Nos. | Members | |
| Koratagere | 11 | 204 | 9 | 135 | 76.0 |
| Madhugiri | 13 | 206 | 8 | 122 | 66.9 |
| Sira | 11 | 173 | 15 | 252 | 54.7 |
| Gubbi | 10 | 163 | 18 | 255 | 66.1 |
| Tumkur | 23 | 316 | 9 | 114 | 68.7 |
| Total | 68 | 1062 | 59 | 878 | 64.2 |

In addition, there are 11 more men SHGs with 163 members.