



Meeting of a women SHG in progress, Haldodderi (Sira)

Project in Kolar district: Since replicability of the project is an important objective, the project plans to test out the implementation strategy in different environments. Unlike in the project area in Tumkur district, biomass is already abundantly available in certain pockets of Kolar district. Therefore, the village of Yelehalli in Chickballapura taluka of Kolar District has been chosen to initiate project activities.

Yelehalli village has 106 households with a population of 566. Sericulture is a major economic activity in the village. Mulberry is grown over an extent of 70 acres. The mulberry cuttings can be a good raw material for gasifier. The village also has farm forests of 35 acres and afforested area of 145 acres. Therefore biomass gasifiers can be set up here without the need for fresh biomass development activities. Sericulture wastes also form an excellent feedstock for biogas plants to meet the cooking energy needs of villagers.

Biomass Development

Village Forest Committees: VFCs have been formed to cover all the project villages. 6 VFCs have been strengthened and 20 new VFCs have been formed.



VFC Presidents with Forest Department officials

Tree Based Farming (TBF): During 2003 rains, Tree Based Farming was implemented through BIRD-K, in Koratagere cluster, on private agricultural land measuring 49.85 hectares belonging to 114 farmers. During 2004, this activity has been extended to the project villages in all the five clusters through VFCs with facilitation by cluster NGOs. An intensive training programme was organised on TBF with the help of BIRD-K.

Key achievements under TBF during 2004 rains are:

- Preparation of micro-plans for 1089 households by the cluster NGOs.
- **Tree Based Farming Models :** During 2004 rains, till end of September, 2004, an area of 307.42 hectares belonging to 717 farmers has been covered under TBF. This area includes;
 - Agro-horti-forestry(AHF) plantations, involving intercropping of fruit trees with agricultural crops and planting of forestry species on bunds for producing fuel, fodder and small timber, covering an extent of 221.94 ha by 494 farmers.
 - Agro-forestry (AF) plantations, involving planting of forestry species on bunds, covering an extent of 76.15 ha by 143 farmers,
 - Farm forestry (FF), involving planting of fuel wood species in woodlots on fallow and waste lands, covering an extent of 29.03 ha by 78 farmers.
 - 69 farm ponds were dug by 69 farmers on farm lands to harvest rain water and promote recharging of ground water.
 - 36 households have taken up vermi-composting activity to produce manure for use on farmland.

About one third of landed households have adopted TBF so far in the project villages. The consolidated progress in respect of TBF with area and number of farmers is given below:

Model	2003 (ha/no)	2004 (Upto Sept. ha/no)	Total (ha/no)
Agro-Horti-Forestry	35.45 (102)	185.41 (513)	257.39 (596)
Agro-Forestry	10 (17)	91 (226)	86.15 (160)
Farm Forestry	4.4 (6)	31.01 (92)	33.43 (84)
TBF Total	49.85 (114)	307.42 (717)	376.97 (831)
Farm ponds	19	76	95
Vermicompost (units)	56	36	92