

User Contribution: The project has ensured sizeable user contribution even in community irrigation system. For 38 farmers spread over 5 WUAs, the average user contribution is 24.5 %.

Krishi Mela (Agricultural Fair): A field day for agricultural extension was conducted on 9th August, 2004 at Kabbigere in Koratagere cluster to create awareness about the technical and management models of community irrigation system and the cropping strategy and plan amongst the villagers of the entire project area. About 650 farmers from four clusters visited the field and interacted with the members of the WUAs to learn about the components of the irrigation system, cropping possibilities and the management practices.



A view of the stalls at Krishimela, Kabbigere (Koratagere)

An exhibition was also organised to disseminate information about new crops and cultivation techniques. Several agencies such as University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore; BAIF, Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Forest and Watershed Development of Government of Karnataka put up stalls and provided information to more than 2000 people who visited the Krishi Mela.

Experts from UAS demonstrated the use of improved agricultural implements. International Development Entreprises (India) demonstrated low cost drum-kit and bucket-kit drip irrigation systems and organised film shows on the use of micro-irrigation technology. The exhibition also included demonstration of cultivation of medicinal plants and preparation of medicines by BAIF and Odekar farms, Nandihally. There was a stall on cultivation of vanilla by Mr. Padmaraju, a progressive farmer from Tovinakere. Shri. S.C.Khuntia, Project Coordinator inaugurated the exhibition.

A major feature of the exhibition was 'Raita Santhe'- an outlet for farm produce set up by the members of the WUAs to sell vegetables.



Demonstration of improved seed drill by experts, Krishimela, Kabbigere (Koratagere)



A view of vegetables grown by farmers being sold at Raita Santhe, Kabbigere (Koratagere)

The field visits and the exhibition were followed by a function attended by more than 2000 villagers. Members of WUAs shared their experience of cultivation of high value crops under community irrigation system. Several experts from Agricultural University, Agricultural Department, BAIF etc provided information to villagers on new crops and agronomic practices for improving the incomes.



An experience sharing session, Krishimela, Kabbigere

Operationalising new WUAs: Enthused by the success of farmers of 5 WUAs, 159 farmers from all the five villages of Koratagere cluster have come forward and formed themselves into 22 new WUAs. Yield testing of the borewells has been completed. The work of energisation of these borewells is in progress to enable operationalisation of the new WUAs.

Geo-hydrological prospecting: The project has also completed geo-hydrological prospecting in all the five villages of Madhugiri cluster and has identified 46 possible points for drilling of borewells for community irrigation.