

Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS), Bagepalli 561 207

Narrative Report for the Pan India LCF Coalition

Period: 1 October to 30 September 2013

Project Number: 71-01-04-013

This Project was sanctioned by Icco in order to assist 6 Participant NGOs undertake the actual practice of Low Carbon Farming and claim carbon credits. These revenues will incentivise small and marginal farmers to adopt sustainable agriculture practices on their fields.

The targets set out in this Project were as under:

Target	Total	ADAT S	SEDS	SACRE D	BEST	Accion Fraterna	Timbaktu Collective
Villages	271	70	11	40	35	80	35
Farmers	6,715	1,510	300	1,160	1,220	1,800	725
Plots	9,400	2,400	600	2,000	1,200	2,000	1,200
Acres	17,100	4,200	1,000	2,000	2,400	4,000	3,500

2 Participant NGOs did not do anything in the 2012 cropping season. As a result, no moneys were disbursed to them. The remaining 4 NGOs have strived to cover up and reach the above targets.

2012 Cropping Season

55% of the targeted Participating Farmers were covered, 75% of delineated Plots were taken up, but only 43% of the targeted acres could be covered.

RESULTS	TOTAL	ADATS	SEDS	SACRED	BEST	AF	TC	Realised
PLANNED								
Villages	143	72	11	24	36	-	-	53%
Farmer Families	3,799	1,512	301	654	1,332	-	-	57%
Plots	7,313	2,408	385	1,067	3,453	-	-	78%
Acres	7,874	4,120	1,100	1,054	1,600	-	-	46%

ACTUAL								
Participating Farmers	3,692	1,512	248	469	1,463			55%
Plot Diaries recorded	7,027	2,402	385	707	3,533			75%
Acres under LCF in 2012	7,319	4,120	854	667	1,678			43%
Claim Validation (acres)	3,201		854	667	1,680			19%
LCF Offsets generated	-							

3rd Party Verification (Claim Validation) was undertaken by an UNFCCC accredited DOE on 3,201 acres (19% of targeted acres) in 3 NGOs. Once Environment Defense Fund (EDF), New York, apply their algorithms, this should yield around 3,000 tCO_{2-e}

The 4th Verification we undertook was for Afforestation/Reforestation at ADATS. Instead of conventional planting of orchards, these were of agro-forestry undertaken on LCF fields. This yielded another 8,250 ICERs.

We have a Buyer ready to purchase these 11,000+ LCF Offsets at ₹ 850 per tonne and this carbon revenue will be distributed to the 3,692 Participating Farmers in direct proportion to what they have generated. For this purpose, End User Companies are being formed at all 4 NGOs.

2013 Cropping Season

Preparation for the current year 2013 cropping season were far better than last year. This is largely because the LCF Teams (Coordinators, Case Workers and Village Monitors) are in place, and all the Participating Farmers have a much clearer understanding of what Low Carbon Farming is all about.

RESULTS	TOTAL	ADATS	SEDS	SACRED	BEST	AF	TC	Target
PLANNED								
Villages	266	100	30	43	43	15	35	151%
Farmer Families	5,554	1,826	820	1,307	101	450	1,050	139%
Plots	9,750	2,676	1,600	2,167	307	1,000	2,000	182%
Acres	15,905	4,657	3,000	2,091	157	1,000	5,000	139%
ACTUAL								
Plot Diaries recorded	Plot Diaries will be recorded in February 2014, after the last crops are harvested							
Acres under LCF in 2013	9,905	4,657	3,000	2,091	157	-	-	101%
Claim Validation (acres)								
LCF Offsets generated								

If the 2 Participant NGOs do as they claim, we will overshoot the Project targets by 40-50%. Even if they do not, we are sure of reaching the Project target by the end of this season.

Financials

ADATS is yet to receive financial reports, as on 30th September 2013, from the 3 other Participant NGOs. But the audited statements we have compiled as on 31st March 2013 shows a very frugal usage of resources of just 48% of the sanctioned budget.

Of the ₹ 63,14,836 received from Icco, there is an undistributed balance of just ₹ 45,836 with ADATS as on 30 September 2013.

FINANCIAL REPORT AS ON 31 MARCH 2013

SANCTIONED AMOUNT		EXPENDITURE AS ON 31 MARCH 2013					VARIANCE	
		ADATS	SEDS	SACRED	BEST	TOTAL EXPENSES		
1. LCF STAFF								
1.1.	LCF Coordinators	1,440,000	210,000	90,000	90,000	390,000	1,050,000	
1.2.	Field Workers	1,008,000	310,562	140,400	180,000	630,962	377,038	
1.3.	Monthly Meetings/Training	328,000	52,437	59,318	71,619	183,374	144,626	
1.4.	Field Worker Travel Costs	252,000	111,764	16,560	29,391	-	169,103	
	Farmer Field Schools		207			-		
	Mobile & Internet bills			11,181				
2. IMPLEMENTING SA PRACTICES								
2.1.	Sprayers, Drums, etc.	1,355,000		207,600	163,500	128,665	499,765	
	Bond stones and Paints			19,206				
2.2.	Printing Plot Diaries	94,000	13,475	6,250	49,900	89,402	4,598	
	Printing Survey Formats				19,777			
2.3.	Stipend for Village Monitors	1,540,000	341,500	65,250	199,849	622,599	917,401	
	Village Volunteers for GPS				16,000			
3. VERIFICATION & VALIDATION								
3.1.	DOE Fees	1,500,000	-		-	-	1,500,000	
3.2.	Project Coordination	600,000	-		-	39,687	560,313	
	Administration			39,485				
	Bank Charges		202		-			
TOTAL		8,117,000	1,040,147	263,645	584,496	755,810	2,624,892	5,492,108

DISBURSEMENT OF ICCO RECEIPTS BY ADATS (as on 31st March 2013)

Receipts from Icco	6,314,836				
Granted out to Participant NGOs as on 31 March 2013		1,500,000	480,000	871,000	768,000
Balance with ADATS	2,695,836				
Actual c/b as per R&P		480,908	220,726	292,451	22,222
c/b as per Budget Realisation		459,853	216,355	286,504	12,190
Difference to be reconciled		21,055	4,371	5,947	10,032

(as on 30 September 2013)

Granted out to Participant NGOs after 31 March 2013		1,000,000	350,000	550,000	750,000
Current Balance with ADATS	45,836				

ADATS LCF ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013

June 2012

- 1 Coordinator and 6 Case Workers were appointed in 2 Taluks, exclusively to work in LCF. 2 in Bagepalli, 2 in Siddalaghatta, and 2 in Chintamani.
- Village level Training on Low Carbon farming was conducted by LCF Expert Dr Yasmeen Telwala, FCN Tech Team member.

July 2012

- A detailed training on LCF concept for staff was conducted by Rakesh Tiwari, FCN LCF Specialist.
- As per the Requirement for the baseline and Data analysis a Survey of Mainstream Farmers who were into Inorganic way of farming, has conducted at 3 levels for the Main crops Ragi, Groundnut and Maize. And the details were entered and submitted to FCN Tech team..
- The Survey started in the Month of July ended in August 2012.

	Ragi	Groundnut	Maize
Villages with LCF and Biogas CDM	90	90	90
Villages with LCF and without Biogas	90	90	90
Villages without LCF and Biogas CDM	90	90	90
Total	270	270	270

August 2012 - March 2013

- Please refer the table below to see No. of Villages, Families ,Plots and Acres selected under LCF for the cropping season monsoon 2012

Villages	72
Farmer Families	1,512
Discrete Plots	2,408
Acres under LCF 2012	4,120

- 85 Village Monitors were selected in 3 Taluks.
- Plot Diary format was finalized and printed.
- First training for the LCF Village Monitors was conducted at ADATS training centre for 2 days.
- The Main Agenda for the training was introduction to the concept of LCF, record & monitor Plot Diaries, recommend Package of Practices (SA PoP) for Ragi and Groundnut.

- A separate Monitoring sheet, the “Case Worker Journal” was designed and integrated into the ADATS database, *InfoNeeds*. The purpose is to monitor Case Worker activities on a day to day basis.
- Simultaneously, A/R CDM project’s tree survival rate was also monitored and entered in the database.
- All LCF Staff visited SACRED NGO, to study the GHG Lab and Reference Plots.
- In February 2012, held a meeting with Chickballapur and Gudibanda village CSU Representatives to take more villages under LCF during the 2013 cropping season.
- Plots Diaries of the 2012 crop season were entered into the database on completion of the last harvests.
- FCN Tech Team felt training should be needed for ADATS LCF staff on the theory behind Sustainable Agriculture. We approached the Agriculture University, GKVK centre at Bangalore, to arrange training.

April 2013

- All LCF staff attended a training from 1st to 6th April on Good Crop Management practices .
- 100 Villages selected Under LCF for the 2013 cropping season. 52 in Chintamani, 32 in Siddalaghatta, and 16 in Chickballapur Taluk.
- 108 Village Monitors were appointed at the village level. 52 in Chintamani, 40 in Siddalaghatta and 16 in Chickballapur. In 8 villages, the number of plots were more than 50, so extra Village Monitors were appointed.

May 2013

- One day workshop for the LCF Staff from ADATS, SEDS and SACRED was conducted at Bagepalli Campus to exchange ideas to draft SA PoP’s for Ragi and Groundnut crops.
- FCN Projects Managers and ADATS Coordinator drafted the SA PoP for Ragi, Groundnut and Maize, and sent it to EDF to test for Carbon Emission Factors.
- Selection of Plots under LCF (May 2013)

Extension	Villages	Farmers	Plots under LCF	Acres
Chintamani	52	901	1,313	2,487
Siddalaghatta	32	674	1,040	1,714
Chikkaballapur	16	251	323	456
Total	100	1,826	2,676	4,657

- SA PoP’s translated into Kannada language and copies printed for distribution in the villages
- Gram Panchayat wise informal meetings were held by Village Monitors on alternate land use practices

June 2013

- Format for the Plot Diary changed and 2,800 Diaries printed.
- Regular village visit by LCF Case workers to visit the plots
- Training conducted for Village Monitors at Chintamani 22nd June 2013. Topics covered were:
 - Introduction to LCF
 - Explaining PoP's for Ragi, Groundnut and Maize
 - Feed Back
 - How to record and maintain the Plot Diaries

July 2013

- Case Workers visited all villages to support the Village Monitors in entering Plot Diaries .
- LCF Coordinator visited an average of 30% of the villages and Case Workers visited 80% of the Plots in each village.
- Selected 50 women SA Farmers to support them on agriculture related businesses. But due to lack of budget, nothing useful has been done
- Listed 30 farmers to prepare Case Studies
- Meeting with District Agriculture Officer on different schemes available to promote Sustainable Agriculture
- Supported 54 Farmers from 9 Villages to avail free seeds from RSK
- Reference Plots selected for A/R CDM Verification as per UNFCCC standards, with the help of the FCN Tech Team.

August 2013

- Participated in meeting conducted by government Agriculture Department in Chickballapur on organic farming & shared our experiences.
- Involved in A/R CDM Verification conducted by the DOE team at Chintamani, Siddalaghatta, Chickballapur and Bagepalli Taluks.
- Held Gram Panchayat wise LCF Village Monitors meetings in all 3 Taluks.
- Took photographs on different practices in LCF

September 2013

- Training for all LCF Villages Monitors was conducted in Chickballapur on 4th September. The main agenda was to review LCF, share experiences, and verifying Plot Diaries.
- LCF Case Workers and Village Monitors concentrated on collecting the share capital of ₹ 100 each to form the End User Company – Bagepalli Fair Climate Producers Company Ltd.” from participating families. Such a Company is mandatory to sell LCF Offsets.

Of the 1,826 Participating Farmers, 1,348 have paid their share amount. The remaining will pay in October 2013.

SEDS LCF ACTIVITY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013

Goal of the project is to protect the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers, contribute to abating climate change and protect the environment.

The purpose of Low Carbon Farming (LCF) is to scale up Sustainable Agriculture (SA). LCF practices offer farmers the opportunity to capitalise on the carbon market as they shift to methods and techniques of producing that are more sustainable, involve lower input costs and result in emission reductions and sequestration by sinks. By accessing carbon money we want to increase the usage of practices and coverage of SA.

LCF follows a specific set of procedures in order to be genuine. Reporting, case studies and interviews do not authenticate the work done in a method that can be traced back in a transparent way. For LCF we need to show that the farmer has practiced SA. By adopting a crop-specific designed Package of Practices (PoP), the farmer will engage in SA and can become eligible for earning carbon credits. To sell these carbon credits the production must be transparent and unambiguous to anyone who wants to buy these. We need to be able to prove where this farmer lives, confirm identity, point out the cultivated plot, crops planted and authenticate how he has managed these.

Climate or Carbon Projects have this inbuilt market discipline that is intrinsic to the much hailed business approach of contemporary programs. Rooted in the community we build up the methodology and mechanisms whereby the people become the proprietors of knowledge and the executors of work. In the end they are the owners of the generated assets, Carbon Emission Reductions.

For this the NGO follows a rigid methodology that validates the work. The table below gives an outline of the steps.



At the start of the 2012 season SEDS was promoting SA in 30 villages. In order to get LCF going new staff was attracted and the team got restructured. A flat organisation model was promoted. All members in the team got a voice in planning of the work. Command is there but it means supporting the members

and shepherding them into growth situations. This increased responsibility and resulted in employees making decisions based on their own judgement. To make appropriate decisions, they needed two things: Technical competence in their work and clarity as to what the organisation is trying to accomplish. Technical competence was solved with training and learning. Organisational clarity came with communication of goals and with rich, contextual, informal communications.

As staff was new and inexperienced it was decided to focus LCF in 11 villages to set the procedures straight. Intensive training took place in explaining goal and purpose of the project, elaborating on roles and responsibilities and acquiring the technical know-how. By sowing time 1100 acres were committed with 300 farmers. Farmers knew and understood the practices and Village Monitors were appointed and trained to help maintaining the diaries.

In the meantime SA was promoted in the other 19 villages. Seven villages had dropped out and were replaced by seven new ones. In order to help sustain the farmer groups SEDS linked up with government support. The National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) is now extending nominal support to 30 farmer groups in the villages.

The 2012-2013 cropping season proved to be very hard. A severe drought from the previous year continued. Nevertheless some ample rain in mid-July prompted most farmers to take a gamble and sow a crop. As the work was taking place in the fields, farmers and monitors were diligently keeping note on the activities. Monthly during Meeting/ Trainings staff checked up on the progress. Unfortunately the July rains didn't continue and many fields were left to wither away. By February when the last crops were taken from the fields it was clear that harvest was going to be minimal.

In line with the method diaries were collected and entered. In the end 248 farmers had implemented SA practices on 854 acres on 385 plots in 11 villages. As for now SEDS is awaiting Claim Validation for the work done.

Since December 2012 staff has been active in introducing the Producer Company. Meetings were set up in all villages to introduce the concept. Then two farmers from each village were chosen for representation in a meeting where the directors of the company were elected. Since March the elected body is meeting monthly and getting all work done for registration.

At the same time the other 19 villages were now brought in. The cropping season 2013-14 will see LCF happen in 30 villages with 800 farmers spread out over 1300 plots and 2500 acres. At the start of the season diaries were distributed and new Village Monitors were trained.

The Kharif season started again on a sour note as rains were sparse but by mid-July most farmers had planted a crop. The second part of the monsoons proved to be better. Nearly all village tanks were filled to the brim and farmers under tank irrigation will definitely take up Rabi season. For this work is now being prepared.

Climate change has entered their frame of mind and farmers hope that by adopting SA practices they can benefit their lives as well as the environment. Through this LCF project they have become active participants working directly on their own development as well as countering climate change.

SACRED LCF ACTIVITY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013

Implementation of LCF and SA Expansion:

An SA PoP was made for Ragi (Finger Millet) by the staff of SACRED, assisted by representatives of Participating Farmers and the FCN Tech Team.

In the 2012 Kharif season, Plot Diaries were given to 469 farmers covering 707 plots and 791 acres in 24 villages. For the 2013 Kharif season, 19 villages were added. 1,307 farmers covering 2,167 plots and 2,091 acres will be implementing LCF for Ragi from June 2013 onwards. In addition to this, 10 more villages were chosen where LCF will be taken up in the next season (2014).

In this period, 1,100 (2,419 in total) plots of covering 1,037 acres (2,320 in total) were irrefutably delineated. Demographic Data was collected for 100 new farmers who wanted to undertake LCF.

A Claim Validation to validate and verify LCF Practices and the processes involved was carried out in October 2013.

SA Extension and Meetings/Trainings

The following support was extended to the farmers to help implement the SA PoP:

- Vermibed
- Drums to prepare biofertilizer/ liquid manure, sprayers and conoweeders were given to 24 farmer groups
- Seeds, and some saplings were distributed in 5 villages
- Agriculture implements distributed for 55 families
- 73 JLG (Joint liability groups) have been formed, at present 15 JLGs have received subsidised loans from NABARD.

- Village level meetings are held twice a month
- Once a month, all Village Monitors meet at the SACRED office
 - o Training in SA PoP
 - o Training in maintenance of Plot Diary and PoP monitoring
 - o Trainings in
 - Integrated Natural Resource Management
 - Integrated Soil Management
 - Integrated Crop Management
 - Integrated Pest Management
- The process of setting up an End User Company, in this case a Producer Company Pvt. Ltd, has been initiated and the registration of the same is in progress.

BEST LCF ACTIVITY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013

LCF Implementation and Expansion

For paddy, 3 seasons have already been completed, covering 36 villages. In total, over the 3 seasons, 1284 farmers with 3234 plots and 1521 acres were covered. The Plot Diaries have been collected and entry of the diary in the LCF Monitoring Solution is in progress. At present, 101 farmers with 30 plots covering 170 acres have been given Plot Diaries for the ongoing season.

For groundnut, plot diaries were maintained for 3 seasons, 179 farmers with 299 plots covering 157 acres.

7 villages were added during the current crop season.

In this period, Demographic Data was collected for 247 farmers wanting to undertake LCF. 1,747 plots were delineated, covering 575 acres. 36 new plots of area 10 acres were committed during this period. The process of plot commitment is ongoing.

Paddy

Season	Villages	Farmers	Plots	Acres
Kuruvai	24	278	447	221
Samba	32	734	2238	1023
Thaladi	28	272	549	277

Current season:

Season	Villages	Farmers	Plots	Acres
Samba	15	101	307	170.20

Groundnut:

Season	Villages	Farmers	Plots	Acres
Kuruvai	20	83	127	68.86
Samba	14	74	129	72.25
Thaladi	7	22	43	17.86

SA Extension and Meetings/Trainings

In 36 villages, the following were distributed in order to help the farmers implement the SA PoP:

- (i) 180 drums for preparation of liquid manures
- (ii) 44 bio-fertilizers
- (iii) 89 sheets for growth of azolla
- (iv) 328 bottles of green growth (organic promoter introduced by BEST)
- (v) 70 vermicompost units
- (vi) 6 urine collection units
- (vii) 59 sprayers
- (viii) 12 conoweeders

Meetings were held at the village/volunteer/staff levels to explain

- Objectives of LCF
- Effects of Greenhouse Gases
- Effects of chemical fertilizer and pesticides
- Technologies to improve yield
- Use and preparation of organic manures

24 meetings were held for the Village Volunteers

- 32 staff level meetings. Apart from the points written above, the following were discussed
 - o Volunteer training
 - o Lead Farmer identification
 - o Reporting and monitoring
 - o Creation of model farms
- Monthly meetings are held in all 36 villages

The process of setting up an End User Company, in this case a Producer Company Pvt. Ltd, has been initiated and the registration procedure would start towards the end of October 2013.