

## I. PROJECT PROFILE

1. Project Period Covered : 01-04-2002 to 31-3-2003
  
2. Project Title : “Promoting Sustainable Mechanisms in Joint Forest Management through NGOs in Andhra Pradesh”
  
3. NOVIB Reference number in the Project : IDA - 501524 - 0001901
  
4. Name & Address of the Project implementing Organisation : Centre for World Solidarity  
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## II. ACTIVITY REPORT

(1-4-2002 to 31-3-2003)

### BACKGROUND :

Environment and Forestry related work carried out by CWS (ASW) since late 80s, and the active involvement in the promotion and nurturing of a State level NGO committee on JFM along with other agencies such as - OXFAM, CEC and AFPRO since 1992 paved the way for taking up the Joint Forest Management activity as a network Programme involving NGOs in 1996.

### Phase I:

CWS JFM programme titled “Enhancing NGO participation in the Joint Forest Management Programme in Andhra Pradesh” was initiated in September 1996. This was supported by ASW, NOVIB and OXFAM. 26 Grass root level NGOs from 8 districts working in forestry and environment aspects have been identified and were involved in the programme. A separate project titled “JFM Promotional Project in Andhra Pradesh from Gender Perspective” was designed to see that women’s participation in the programme is enhanced. This was implemented from January 1999 to March 2000 with 6 groups from 3 districts and was supported by HIVOS. During Phase I focus was on- identifying the groups, strengthening the NGO networks at district and State levels, awareness building on JFM concept, formation of VSSs, preparation of micro plans using PRA techniques etc.

### Phase II:

Both the above programmes were merged and a Phase II project titled “Promoting Sustainable Mechanisms in Joint Forest Management Programme in Andhra Pradesh through NGOs” is being implemented since April 2000, with 32 groups from 8 districts and is being supported by ASW and NOVIB. 2 other groups from two more districts are also working on JFM through the support of another donor, AEI and those two are also participating in the meetings/workshops organized by the network programme. *In the Phase II, the focus is on - 1. Consolidating the efforts of the previous phase i.e., formation and strengthening of VSS networks at various levels and 2. Strengthening the gender component in the Programme. Formation of a State level VSS federation with 50% women’s representation at all levels is the end objective of Phase II. Promotion of a people centered forestry Institute is also envisaged.*

The present report narrates the activities carried out during the period from April 2002 to March 2003 in the programme both at CWS and partner NGO levels.

**AT CWS LEVEL :****1. Status of groups & VSSs guided**

Presently 35 partner groups of CWS- JFM are working in 35 ranges of 12 districts. Some additional support was provided to 10 of the 35 partner groups (from the balance amount of Phase I budget), to offer guidance to non project VSSs from the neighboring ranges since last year. Thus 600 VSSs are (*Annexure 1a*) being guided by partners closely through regular support, and another 400 belonging to the 20 ranges (*Annexure 1b*) are guided through their representatives for which additional support is provided. In all about 1000 VSSs have received support from CWS JFM network programme during the year.

**2. Partner's Meetings**

**Three partner's meetings** were held, one in **May**, a meeting in **October** during the evaluation of the project and the other in **December 2002**. In addition to work review, sharing of experiences, some input sessions, plans for trainings and / exposure visits and open and frank discussions regarding certain groups were the key features of these meetings. (Programme schedules of these meetings are at *Annexure 2, & 3*).

**During May** on the first day of **partners meeting** there was an intensive discussion on Resettlement Action plan of Government of Andhra Pradesh (R & R policy). The R & R policy has direct implications for the livelihoods of tribals particularly those who are involved in Podu cultivation. **It has been decided that in case of forest lands that come under the purview of R & R Policy, it would be necessary to initiate discussions at the VSS level to sort out problems of tribals particularly those who are involved in Podu cultivation but this need not hold back the implementation of CFM in the larger part of VSS lands under the purview of a majority of the 6000 VSSs which are in place as the livelihoods of thousands of forest dwellers dependents are at stake.**

Dr. V. Pothanna who has written the "Vanasamrakshana Jagathiki Rakshana" (Burrakatha, a folk form) was invited for the May meeting to introduce this book written on the CFM G.O. for better understanding of CFM and train some of the organizers of Partner NGOs.

On the last day (8<sup>th</sup> May) of the meeting the focus of discussions was on gender issues in JFM Programme. The meeting was facilitated by Ms. A. Kalamani of CWS Gender Desk and Ms. Seethalakshmi (Usha), Consultant. Report on this Gender concerns was annexed to the last years Annual Report and shared with all partners for follow up action.

**Second Partners meeting** was organized for interaction with the evaluation team. Individual presentations by 35 partner groups (each 3 minutes) on the project implementation process at field level and their initiatives to move the programme ahead (Area / VSS wise details have been presented by them) and interaction with the mission team constituted the agenda.

**Third partners meeting** was held in December 2002. Along with review of the work done so far, finalization of Divisional level Resource Centres, NTFP data analysis and presentations on monitoring visits has been covered. ***Main concentration in this meeting is on outlining the Proposal for Next Phase through Centre for People's Forestry.***

### **3. Advisory committee meetings**

Three advisory committee meetings were held during the reporting period. Matters related to the promotion of independent institute, Resettlement Action plan of Government of Andhra Pradesh (R & R policy), and the proposed new initiatives were discussed in these meetings. Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October was arranged during the visit of evaluation team for interaction with the advisory members. Agenda discussed in these meetings are in ***Annexures 4 & 5.***

### **4. State level meeting on “Role of Community in Forest Biodiversity Conservation”**

As follow up to the work done in the previous year on FBR preparation, herbarium sheets are distributed to NGOs and a State level meeting was organized on Biodiversity Registers on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2002 (World Biodiversity day) at Press club, Hyderabad. The Resource persons were- Prof.KameswaraRao of Andhra University, Prof.Raviprasadarao of Srikrishnadevaraya University Ananthapur and Sri P.V. Sateesh from Deccan Development Society. 32 VSSs have displayed their Biodiversity registers in the meeting. The meeting details and press statement are enclosed as ***Annexure 6 & 7.***

As a follow up of the above meeting it was planned to organize five regional meetings for identification of plant specimens collected by Partner NGOs. Dr. B. Raviprasadarao has been identified as Resource person for the same.

### **5. Inter - State meeting on “Voices against eviction of Tribals and Dalits”**

An Inter - State meeting was organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2002 to discuss the Eviction issue with reference to the circular issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2002 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) on eviction of people from the forests. The constitutional safeguards have been violated in case of tribals and in case of Dalits this is more threatening as they have no such safeguards. In this context the meeting was arranged at ASRC to evolve a plan of action towards persuading the MOEF to withdraw the above mentioned circular. Representatives from Orissa, Jharkand, Tamilnadu, Maharastra and partner NGOs from 3 regions of Andhra Pradesh, Vanasamakhya

(State level VSS Federation) Executive Committee members, Regional Resource Centres members and representatives from other NGO organizations have participated in the meeting. Follow up campaigns on eviction were spearheaded by Regional Resource Centres. A note prepared by CPF during the meeting, list of participants and press statement are at *Annexure - 8 & 9*.

### **6. First General Body meeting of Vanasamakhya (State level VSS Federation)**

The first General Body meeting of Vanasamakhya was held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2002 (*Annexure 10*) Members for Executive committee, Advisory Committee, Campaign Committee, Resource Persons Panel, Awareness building committee, and Vanasamakhya Advisory Committee were elected. The process upto the meeting was published as “Vanasamakhya Genesis, Structure & Functioning” and the copies of the publication were shared with all concerned. It has been decided to bring out a Telugu version of the same for use by the Vanasamakhya members and other non member VSSs.

Three Executive Body meetings, one meeting of Campaign and Advisory Committee of Vanasamakhya were held during the year. Issues related to VSSs, Community Forest Management, local Vanasamakhya issues, about holding state level campaigns with partner NGOs and local Vanasamakhya networks and further follow up actions were discussed in the meetings

A Telugu newsletter “**Maa Adavi**” (**Our Forest**) is being brought out by Vanasamakhya (State level VSS Federation). Issues related to forestry, forest dependent communities, dalit and women, livelihood concerns, experiences about forest Protection and Management, Interviews with eminent persons related to forestry are covered in these news letters.. Three editions of the newsletter were published till date and the first one was translated into English.

An Editorial Board was constituted from among the Executive Committee of Vanasamakhya to prioritize the issues to be published. Two meetings of Editorial Board were held during the year.

### **7. Microplan Trainers Training :**

On behalf of APARD and in collaboration with Forest Department Mirco Plan Trainer’s Training was organized. A manual titled “Microplan facilitators guide” and a Calender of posters on Microplan Stages have been brought out as resource material by the team. The modules developed for facilitator team & trainers training are enclosed as *Annexure 11*. As a prelude to the preparation of the manual and organizing Trainer’s Training a field visit for three days (18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2002) to Narayanapur VSS in Adilabad district was made. Colleagues from CWS and WASSAN have also participated in this visit. The proposed PRA techniques were field tested (and fine tuned later) and appropriate data were generated for the preparation of Microplan. Field level Forest Department officials also have actively participated in the process.

The data thus generated was used during the training sessions and the participants were asked to prepare a Microplan using the information provided.

Two Micro Plan Trainers Trainings were organized to Partner NGOs by the Programme staff at the Regional Resource Centres of CPF.

### **8. Workshop with writers of Folk Art forms**

A workshop with folk form writers was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2002 and it was explained to them that the concept and subject to be covered under folk art forms are -CFM GO, Microplan and Vanasamakhyia. An individual exercise has been done. Finalized few art forms for further action and Dr. V. Pothanna was assigned to write. The details of agenda discussed are at *Annexure 12*.

He wrote “Vanasamrakshana Jagatiki Rakshana” (Burrakatha, a folk form) on CFM GO for better understanding of CFM and four songs which were published subsequently and released during the First General Body meeting of ‘Vanasamakhyia’ in June 2002.

### **9 (a) Exposure visit of Vanasamakhyia to MPVS in Madhya Pradesh**

Vanasamakhyia members and two facilitators from CPF (total 18) went for an exposure visit to Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha (MPVS), Bhopal Madhya Pradesh (3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2003) to study network initiatives of Communities and collective efforts made by people’s networks. An Interaction has been arranged with Forest Department officials of MP to learn more about Madhya Pradesh NTFPs and efforts made by them to streamline NTFP markets in terms of procuring, processing and value addition, Structural and functional setup of Beedi Leaf co-operatives across the state. Value addition process for various products of NTFPs, and marketing strategies with special reference to Honey, Amla and Mahua. The trip was interesting and quite challenging for all the participants and many of them volunteered to start off with adopting value addition methods for Amla and Mahua. The trip was partly supported by Winrock International India. (Report of the visit along with list of members & Programme Schedule in MP are at *Annexures 13*).

### **9 (b) Facilitation of Exposure visit of Partner NGOs**

Facilitated a visit of two partner NGOs- PMK and CCN to DDS, Zaheerabad to study alternative Public Distribution Systems (PDS) promoted by the organization.

### **10. NTFP Information**

Received data in prescribed formats from most of the partner NGOs for each of the VSSs with which they are directly associated and the information collected was in process of compiling

and analyzing to design appropriate marketing strategies for NTFP on product basis. Customised Software (NTFP Information System Version 2) for such analysis has been developed during the year.

### **11. Monitoring visits during the year**

Two rounds of visits were made during the year. Peer group monitoring of 50% groups in first round and more than 50% were sent for second round visits since there are some special aspects to be looked into apart from the regular monitoring. Visit details are in *Annexure 14*, and the special aspects covered are hereunder:

1. Vanasamakhya process (VSS to local federation and from there to State)
2. R & R issues documentation (earlier it was advised to document atleast in 3 VSSs)
3. CFM GO implementation status (Formation of committees etc.)
4. Watershed approach in treating VSS forest area
5. Follow up work on the concept note (extent of discussions with VSS & federation on proposed work).
6. Status of the campaign issues (as decided in June meeting, wherever applicable).

### **12. Participation in Meetings-**

JFM Programme staff have participated in the meetings organised by - CWS's other desks, WASSAN, State NGO Committee on JFM, Forest Department, Aikya and Chamundi, RECOFTC, The Ford Foundation, Asia Social Forum, NCPNR, IIFM, MANAGE and other NGO organizations appropriately. In addition participation as resource persons in AP Forest Academy's trainings has also been continued. The particulars of attendance at different meetings are as under :

Sl. No	Meeting Organized by	Dates/ Name of the person attended	Venue	Topic
1	State NGO Committee on PFM & AP Forest Department	24 <sup>th</sup> August (GS & GSR) 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2002 (GS)	Visakhapatnam Biotrim, Tirupathi	NGOs role in A.P. Community Forest Management
2	AP Forest Department	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2002 (KS)  1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2002 (GS, KS & GSR)  23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2002 (DSK)	A.P.Forest Academy  Ghosha Mahal Stadium, Hyderabad  Conference Hall, Aranya Bhawan, Hyd	Training Programme on Financial Management at VSS level, Launching of the A.P. Community Forest Management Project, funded by World Bank, Strategies for revision of R & R Policy and implementation of RAP under APCFM Project
3.	APFD for interaction with WB supervisory mission	24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2002	Aranya Bhavan,	APCFM World Bank Project Implementation <b>CPF Concerns shared in the meeting are at Annexure 15</b>
4	RECOFTC Bangkok	28 <sup>th</sup> October to 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2002 (DSK)	Phuket, Thailand	Workshop on – Federations and Networks in Policy Development: Analyzing Representative Organizations.
5	The Timabaktu Collective	12 to 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2002 - (GSR & KBR)	IACIS, Hyderabad	Building Perspectives in Gender
6	IIFM	26 <sup>th</sup> November to 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2002 (GSR)	IIFM, Bhopal	International Training on Sustainable NTFP Management for Rural Development.
7	NCPNR	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2002 (KS)	Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangalore	Encroachment and Forest Lands and Related issues

8	Asian Social Forum	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2003 (All)	Nizam Grounds, Hyderabad	Mr. G Srinivas presented a paper on “Livelihoods and Alternatives” in the seminar Organized by CWS. All the programme staff attended some meetings of the Asian Social Fourm
9.	Aikya & Chamundi	17th to 20th 2002 (DSK)	Aikya Center in an Eco-Farm, near Bangalore	Women’s work: Collaborative Leadership Development
10.	The Ford Foundation	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2003 (DSK)	Magnolia Hall, Habitat Centre, New Delhi	Reflection workshop on Community based Natural Resource Management program

DSK - D.Suryakumari; GS - G.Srinivas; KS- K.Suresh, GSR - G.Solomon Raj and KBR - K. Bhavana Rao.

Apart from the above meetings, the programme staff also participated in the meetings organized by other desks of CWS and Wassan.

### 13. New Initiatives

The project grant “Establishment of Regional Resource Centres for People’s Forestry” submitted to the Ford Foundation came through in June 2002. The present grant is intended to support the establishment of three Regional Resource Centres, that would enable existing federations of VSSs (vanasamrakshana samithis), to develop capacity and expand their membership base, in addition to supporting the training capacities of the partner NGOs. During the first year all three RRCs have been successfully established in the three regions namely Telangana (Adilabad district), Rayalaseema (Kadapa district), and Coastal Andhra (Madugula).

Different kinds of training programmes in context of capacity building of VSSs members, Partner NGOs are being carried out. Apart from this other activities being take up by the RRCs are - region level campaigning, Collection of data at the division level on all issues related to VSS, convergence of other government programmes, information gathering & dissemination on CFM etc., planning internal meetings with partner groups of CPF in that region, documentation of case studies and strengthening of networks.

## Pamphlets

A Pamphlet was brought out on - Stages of Microplan, VSSs membership norms and Coordination of Micro Plan with Working Plan. The same were disseminated to VSSs and their networks through the concerned NGOs and the Regional Resource Centres.

### 14. Information dissemination to Partners

All relevant information was shared with partner NGOs. (*Annexure 16*).

### 15. Rapport with the Forest Department

The rapport established with the Forest department during the previous years is being maintained. Dr. Suryakumari has attended the “Task Force” meetings of which she has been nominated as a member.

Correspondence with Forest Department (Principal Chief Conservator of Forestes and the CCF-JFM) during the year is as under :

Sl. No	Date of Request	Nature of Request	Response Status
1	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2002 (to PCCF)	To record the beedi leaf collection data in 1- A form VSS wise from the current year onwards by field staff	Instructions were sent to concerned Conservators of Forests on 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2002 ( <b>Annexure 17</b> )
2.	26 <sup>th</sup> June, 2002 (to PCCF)	We have mentioned that the training expenses will be sought from Forest Department in our proposal submitted to Ford Foundation on “Establish Regional Resource Centres” . In the above context we requested the Forest Department to instruct their field officials to organize training programmes to VSS members, NGO functionaries and field level F.D. officials on CFM related aspects in our Regional Resource Centres.	Received a copy of the instruction letter sent to the field officials in this regard on 28.6.2002 ( <b>Annexure 18</b> )
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2002 (to CCF- JFM)	To delete the topic of R & R Policy in the training schedule, as the understanding is to have a review on this GO 10 in consultation with people concerned.	On 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2002 CCF has taken initiative on the matter a copy of the instructions sent was marked to CPF ( <b>Annex 19</b> )
4	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2003 (to CCF- JFM)	Request for changes to be made in Telugu Booklet on VSS Financial Management and Book Keeping	It has been agreed to do the same.
5	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2003 (to PCCF)	Request to provide facilitation support for our partner NGOs who are working in the World Bank project districts with an amount of Rs.90,000/year/group which was shown so in our proposed budget submitted to Novib for next phase.	Received response in this regard ( <b>Annexure 20</b> )

## 16. Publications brought out during the year are as under :

- ★ A Hand Book on Forest Biodiversity Registers - by Mr.G.Srinivas
- ★ 3 Issues of Maa Adavi News letter - by Vanasamakhya; Editor Mr. K. Suresh
- ★ Case Studies Series - 1 by Sri. T. Shivaji & Mr. K. Jayaraju
- ★ Vanasamrakshana - Jagathiki Rakshana - Burrakatha - by Dr. V. Pothanna
- ★ Posters on
  - Powers and Responsibilities of VSS General Body with the captions : “VSS belongs to all Members” - “Let us manage our forest ourselves”.
  - Need to maintain good relations with other villagers / institutions/SHGs and Govt. as well as non government agencies with the captions ; “Let us seek support from all” - “To become self reliant”.
- ★ A Telugu manual on “VSS Micro Plan Facilitators Guide“ by Dr. D. Suryakumari, Mr.G. Srinivas and Mr. K. Suresh
- ★ A Calender of posters on Microplan Stages

## 17. Research and Studies

The following are the developments in this regard:

- \* As a follow up of the Regional Workshop on Federations and Networks in Policy Development: Analyzing Representative Organizations, at Thailand Dr.D.Suryakumari initiated a Study on “Sustainability of Vanasamrakshana Samithis (VSSs) and the Role of Girijan Cooperative Corporation” in Andhra Pradesh State - India.
- \* Identified a research student and extended modest support to him for preparing 20 case studies, two in each of the districts where CWS’s partners are working. One NGO VSS and one non NGO VSS has to be studied. Duration is 18 months and CWS JFM team offer suggestions from time to time. Ten reports have been submitted so far.
- \* Two action research studies have been initiated during last year. One on Bamboo and the other on Beedi leaf. Dr.Suryakumari along with one partner NGO along with a VSS representative constitute the study team for both the studies. Bamboo study has been completed and draft report has been shared in partner’s meeting and with all concerned during December 2002. Preliminary report on Beedi Leaf study was also shared in the above meeting.

## 18. Documentation

The consultant submitted report on 8 topics identified for in depth study and Documentation and out of which 4 case studies has been published as “Case Studies Series - I and other 4 Studies are in process of publishing as “Case Studies Series - II in ‘Telugu’ (local language).

## **Personnel**

Interviews have been conducted and the following Personnel have been appointed during the year :

7. Mr. K. Suresh, Programme officer – under the provision for one position supported by Winrock International India.
8. Mr. G. Solomon Raj - Programme officer with Novib consent for our request for one more position
9. Ms. K. Bhavana Rao, Programme officer – Supported by Ford Foundation
10. Mr. P. N. Srinivasa Rao, Accounts officer – Supported by Ford Foundation.

## **19. Evaluation**

External Evaluation commissioned by Novib for Phase II Programme was scheduled from 5<sup>th</sup> of October to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002. The team Consisted of Dr. Margaret Skutsch of University of Twente, Netherlands and Mr. Srinivas Mudrakartha, Director - VIKSAT, Gujarat. Evaluation team had interactive sessions with staff working in the programme, Advisory Committee members, Partners, Vanasamakhya members and Forest Department officials. Field visits were planned to review the programme at field level. The schedule of the evaluation team to review the programme has been enclosed as (*Annexure 21*). The recommendations of the evaluation team were enclosed as (*Annexure 22*). Summary (as given by the evaluation team) of the evaluation report is here under :

### **Summary of the Evaluation Report :**

This report details the findings of an evaluation mission of the Novib and ASW sponsored project “**Promoting Sustainable Mechanisms in Joint Forest management through NGOs in Andhra Pradesh**” (IDA-501524-P-1901). This project is being implemented by a group known as the **Centre for People’s Forestry (CPF)** under the Centre for World Solidarity (CWS), an NGO based in Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

The evaluation was carried out by Srinivas Mudrakartha of VIKSAT (Gujarat) and Dr. Margaret Skutsch of the University of Twente (The Netherlands) between October 6 and October 17, 2002. The evaluation involved discussions with project staff, senior management of CWS, trustees of the project, senior Forest Department officers, and all the partner organisations. Field visits were made to a number of the NGO partners where in most cases the consultants were able to participate in meetings of VSSs and VSS networks, and judge the value of the project from the point of view of the ordinary VSS members.

Progress since the last mission in January 1999 has been good and the project has advanced both in its conceptualization of the problem and in its approach to dealing with it. It is now working with 35 NGOs and directly covering 600 VSSs (village forestry committees) throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh, but primarily in areas where there are significant proportions of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste groups in the population.

At the grass roots level, the project, via its partner NGOs, has continued to assist VSSs to get their dues from the World Bank sponsored JFM project as carried out by the Forest Department. The support of NGOs is necessary for VSSs to fully understand what their rights are, and to assist them in attaining the same. The formation by the project of VSS networks at range level and a state-level network called *Vanasamakhyas* have contributed to the strength of VSSs and increased their bargaining position.

The project has acted in a cooperative manner with the Forest Department and in this way has been able to influence policy making in a positive way. The new World Bank programme on the Community Forest Management, is much more participatory than the earlier Joint Forest Management Programme, partly as a result of the efforts of the project. All the recommendations made at a Stakeholder Consultation organised by the CPF have been incorporated in this new programme. The CPF also contributed to the preparation of training materials developed by the Forest Department, meaning that the ideas developed by the project are now used in training throughout the state (i.e. for all 6000 VSSs). There are a number of issues which still need urgent attention, for example, the necessity of establishing the legal basis and time horizon for VSS management of the forest, which at present is only defined in Government Orders.

Of particular note in terms of changes since the last mission are the facts that women are now much more heavily involved not only in the work of the VSSs but also in the management committees and that a fairer balance of population groups (particularly tribals) is included in these management committees. However, not all inequalities have been eliminated and there is still need to assist local NGOs in building up democratic processes within the programme. The current Mission has recommended, inter alia, a gender analysis study to get insights into the work load aspects.

The Mission has made a large number of detailed recommendations (see chapter 4) which cannot all be summarised here. In particular, however, it was felt that the VSSs need to be involved further in a planning process whereby the potential returns to forest management in terms of harvestable minor forest products and timber would be better understood, and recommended that the microplanning process should be extended to include such calculation exercises. Similarly, villagers should understand themselves how to calculate the inputs (material, payments etc.) necessary for forest management. It also recommended that the question of *podu*

(cultivation within the forest) should be urgently addressed by the project, with a view to exploring livelihood options within the forest for those involved.

The Mission suggests that the project needs to assist the *Vanasamakhya* to enhance the latter's understanding of its own role and that it should expand to include representatives of VSSs outside the project.

The Mission found that the internal programme and financial monitoring systems of the project work well, in a highly participatory manner, but had some recommendations for improving this further.

The project has been able to attract sponsors for additional activities related to and coherent with the work sponsored by Novib; for example from Hivos for a gender component (1999, and merged with the main programme in 2000), from The Ford Foundation for setting up Regional Resource Centres (2002), and from Winrock International India for the *Vanasamakhya* (for one year till November 2002). Most of these activities are very interesting but are too new to be evaluated; in any case, this was outside the scope of the ToR of the Mission.

The Mission suggests that the project should not expand further in terms of more VSSs, rather consolidate its approach. The new resource centers can function as a basis for further outreach.

The Mission recommends continued financial support to the project from Novib, and approves the suggestion that CPF should become an autonomous organization. The project management has demonstrated that it is capable of independently managing a project of this size, on the basis of statements of the trustees of the project as also in the opinion of the consultants and the partner organisations.

## **20. Consultancy Assignment of Dr. D. Suryakumari**

Dr. D. Suryakumari was requested to be a member on the External Evaluation Mission of a Project Jointly funded by the Ford Foundation, New Delhi and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Nepal during December 2002 to evaluate the project of "HIMAWANTI" an International grassroots women's network on NRM promoted and nurtured by ICIMOD – Khatmandu. Dr. Suryakumari was responsible for the India part (Uttaranchal) and the other two team members for Bangladesh and Nepal and they were from those countries. The three member team together assessed the Regional Programme head quartered in Khatmandu.

The consultancy fee has been deposited in the CPF account after getting approval of CWS Projects Committee.

## **21. Promotional work of “Centre for People’s Forestry”**

After the series of consultations and interactive meetings with all concerned the Trust Deed was finalized and the Centre for People's Forestry was registered as a Trust on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2002. Trustees present for the registration (who signed the Trust Deed) are - Sri S.D. Mukherji, Dr. V. Rukmini Rao, Dr. C. S. Rangachari and Mr. K. Rama Rao, Dr. D. Suryakumari and Mr. Sreenivas Goud are the witnesses. Other members who have agreed to be on the Trust are Prof. K. Kameswara Rao, Dr. Sheela Prasad, Mr. Farhad Vania and Prof. Rama Melkote. One Trustee position is still vacant (as per the Trust deed) and has to be filled in by a woman member. Present Trustees are requested to suggest names for the same. The formal independent functioning of the Centre would be from April 2003. The First Board of Trustees meeting was held after the registration of the trust with the above mentioned trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2002. Some of the decisions of the meeting are :

- ◆ Opening of two Bank Accounts (one local and one to receive foreign contributions)
- ◆ Applying for 12 A and 80 G recognition under Income Tax Act.
- ◆ It has been decided that Dr. D. Suryakumari to be appointed as fulltime Director of Centre for People's Forestry as well as the Exofficio Secretary of the Trust.
- ◆ Messers. Sampath & Ramesh, Chartered Accountants as Auditors of the Trust for two years.
- ◆ Applying for FCRA registration and prior permission.
- ◆ To continue the implementation of the ongoing Ford funded RRC Project in collaboration with CWS till the end of the phase (2002 – 2005).
- ◆ Preparation and submission of project proposal by CPF directly for the next phase (April 2003 to March 2006).

### **AT PARTNER NGO LEVEL :**

The groups carry out work at VSS and VSS Network levels. The groups submit their activity and financial reports during the review meetings. Certain achievements specific to few individual groups are presented hereunder based on - the annual reports submitted by them and the information gathered during monitoring visits.

The activities carried out at the VSS level by all groups include: Trainings to VSS Committee members in -

- ★ Forest Protection
- ★ Bio-diversity conservation
- ★ Growing medicinal plants
- ★ Community development
- ★ Addressing Sustainability concerns (VSS fund)
- ★ Working towards enhancement of women's participation
- ★ VSS management
- ★ CFM GO
- ★ Microplan preparation and
- ★ Vanasamakhya

Trainings conducted to VSS Management Committee members by the groups that are common are- Micro plan, Bookkeeping, Financial management and Forest protection.

The activities carried out by the groups that are common are -

- ◆ FBR : Forest Biodiversity Registers are prepared in one VSS, species inventory and herbarium in all other VSS. Plant species and animals were identified by VSS members, campaigns are conducted in all VSS on importance of biodiversity conservation.
- ◆ Campaign on CFM GO and R&R policy: Awareness camps on CFM GO and R&R policy are conducted in all VSS.
- ◆ NTFP survey : Information on NTFP collection and marketing processes from all VSS were recorded using a format.
- ◆ Elections to VSS Management Committee: Facilitate the process of election to Management committees.

Specific trainings and activities carried out by each group are briefly mentioned in the following pages district wise and Group wise.

## I. SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT

### 1. SAMYOGITHA

Sensitizing VSS male members on the necessity of equal wages and to give opportunity to women to discuss and express problems and suggestions, related to VSS activities. Motivating the community about the importance of women's education and girl child education conducting awareness campaigns for both men and women and *insurance sale* of NTFP by women at better prices, encouraging women to demand equal wages, forming self-help groups, promoting thrift and credit, creating health awareness, addressing violence on women focusing on women's role in livelihoods and encouraging women to occupy important positions in the Panchayats and VTDA. Complaints committees have been formed at VSS level to address harassment of women.

Resources mobilized for natural resources and community development include repair and construction of ponds and water tanks, roads, drinking water bore wells, housing colonies and telephone connections in remote villages etc. The extent of NTFP availability is surveyed and market linkages are being explored for the same.

From among 14 VSS, 9 VSS have VSS level fund. Each VSS contributes Rs. 50/- per annum towards network fund, total amount accrued so far is Rs. 5,650/-. The local VSS Network has sent resolutions to forest department requesting harvest permission for Bamboo.

Information sharing between VSS is done through network meetings and mutual visits. Problems in forest protection identified at range level VSS network are:

- Smuggling of Bamboo by non-VSS members.
- Fire accidents in bamboo patches.
- Cattle grazing in VSS area.
- Non-VSS members grazing goats in the plantation area.
- NTFP collection by non-VSS members
- Smuggling of Bamboo, Timber, and MFP by nearby villagers.
- Podu cultivation by Savara males, those who belong to the same VSS
- Firewood collection by non-VSS members

The network taken up the following measures regarding the above problems: VSS members to guard the plantation area on rotation basis, making fire tracks, keeping cattle away from plantation area, collecting penalty from goat grazers, NTFP collectors, starting a new VSS to meet the needs of BC and SC communities, negotiations with Forest Department and ITDA for providing land for cultivation to Podu cultivators and regulated collection of firewood.

## II. VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT

### 2. PMK

Problems discussed and taken up for follow up in the network meeting are harvest permission for bamboo, over grazing, firewood collection, medicinal plants and wild animals destroying crops.

The other major activities done during the year include, trainings to VSS members on be keeping and cashew processing, development of D-Patta land, thrift and DWACRA groups formation, Health checkup camps conducted in Addateega VSS and Night Schools in 3 VSSs.

As the number of VSS are more and scattered over a vast geographical area, instead of range level meetings, Cluster wise meetings are held once in two months.

Network fund accrued to Rs. 26,000/-.

Women's participation has increased to 50% in management committee and implementation of equal wages needs to be taken up for future.

### 3. SMART

In all VSS, awareness on two separate bank accounts, bookkeeping and accounts system, preparation of budget, resource mapping, writing muster roll, applying for works and estimate copies has been provided. Trainings on programme funds and programme implementation is being provided for Management Committee members.

VSS sub-committees, especially, Forest protection committees are effective in forest protection and in reducing forest offences to minimum.

Women are participating in VSS activities in increasing members, especially after GO MS No. 12 provided them more than 50% representation in VSS Management Committee.

Range level network is taking up problems and working towards solving them.

For skill development in NTFP collection and marketing, trainings on value addition and collective marketing are being provided.

Linkages established with other departments and Gram Panchayat are facilitating speedy solutions to problems.

#### 4. ROSES

Organized meetings and awareness camps on leadership, skill development, NTFP collection and marketing.

Arranged matching grants for income generation and value addition programmes to 8 women groups for purchasing tamarind and cashew and cropping investment.

Advocacy and lobbying with local GCC outlet for fair price and weighing is yielding results.

#### 5. CODWEL

Conducted meetings and Awareness camps in all VSSs on sustainability of VSS and Vanasamakhya.

In regular monthly meetings, workshops and trainings on income generation programmes identifying local resources for effective management

Sharing of experiences and reviewing progress of each VSS in comparison with model VSS is done in network meetings.

Imparted scientific gum tapping methods to gum tappers from 18 VSS. The resource person stayed in those VSS to train them.

#### 6. HARITHAMITRA

Setup two check posts in Juthadapalem and KG Pudi VSS which are manned by the VSS members on rotation basis

Trainings on NTFP processing and marketing were provided to VSS members. NTFP marketing is being done at individual and VSS level. Selected two members from each VSS to train them as technical persons on NTFP processing. Under skill development, trainings on Adda leaf plate making, tamarind processing, gumkaria processing and grading, NTFP collection techniques, plastic wire bags making and equal wages in food for work programmes were provided.

So far 21 VSSs are regularly contributing Rs. 120 per annum towards network fund.

Major problems identified in VSS are: fire accidents, grazing, smuggling, excess firewood collection, shortage of funds for forest works, absence of food for work programme. Measures are being taken to resolve these problems at VSS as well as network level.

Following issues are deliberated in the network meeting.

- ◇ Equal wages
- ◇ Equal participation of men and women in meetings and works
- ◇ Regular meetings in VSS

- ◇ Trainings required,
- ◇ Network meetings,
- ◇ Forest protection and proper financial management
- ◇ Sensitizing men on need for women's participation in VSS activities.

### **III. VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT**

#### **7. CCN**

The problems in forest protection are unauthorized and excessive cattle grazing in VSS area, forest fires and minor disputes with forest department regarding allocation of funds.

Awareness campaigns regarding the first four problems and representations to the forest department regarding the later are adopted.

VSS network meeting are conducted regularly. Discussed GO MS No 12, women's participation, preparation of micro plans, creation of network fund and conflict resolutions in Network meetings for follow up.

VSS members have undertaken campaigns on child to child campaigns for girl child education, Sogorta (Traditional Marriage compensation system to women), strengthening Anganwadi centre and assuring safe delivery practices.

Organisel exposure visit to Zaheerabad (DDS) to study the function of PDS system.

#### **8. GRAMABHYUDAYA**

As a result of lobbying with forst department the network could get harvesting permission for bamboo in four VSSs and established few local sales depots in addition to Chodavaram central depot.

All VSS members are collecting NTFP and sharing the profits equally. Established checkpoints at VSS level and VSS members are manning them. Exposure visits to VSS members and SHG members on sustainable agriculture to SHRDC, Mamidipalem

In this year, works were carried out in 8 VSS but no payments made sofar the Network is making efforts to get payments for them

In addition to their specific duties, subcommittees in 9 VSS have taken up the responsibility of village sanitation, education and health.

Lobbying with forest department to get adequate wage rates for physical works carried out in VSS

Conducted a range level workshop cum training programme on VSS sustainability

Ascertaining market situation for medicinal plants for a concerted marketing Nelavemu is ready for harvest and marketing.

A sale contract was signed by VSS with paper mills to sell Bamboo to them @ Rs. 1600/- per ton, NGO and Forest Department are facilitating the process.

In 10 VSS thrift programmes are going on and arrangements are made for low interest loans from banks.

Sprinkling of Neem seed in VSS and non-VSS villages.

The problems identified in range level VSS network are being placed before the forest department every month.

Resources mobilized from other sources include: Education of hygiene practices, MPPE school, Anganwadi centre, etc.

Each VSS has a sustainability fund.

Market linkages for Tamarind and medicinal plants are being explored

Women's participation is enhanced to 50% level in meetings and decision making.

## 9. SVDS

The problems identified by range level VSS network meeting are demarcation deforestation, soil erosion and un planted area in this regard, the measures planned are raising nursery and plantation, construction of check dam VSS boundary non-demarcation.

Training programmes on microplan to management committee members conducted health camps in VSS villages.

Thrift programme through MACTS, special orientation on importance of thrift to VSS members.

Improving women's partnership in the programme implementing equal wages.

Environment camps conducted to school children in 2 VSS.

VSSs sustainability fund in 7 VSSs, network fund accrued is Rs. 500/-.

Under enterprise development trainings on gum tapping, katti mandu and pickles preparation are provided to VSS members.

#### 10. SKDMM

Enrolled 610 new members in 15 VSSs of which 14 or single women, who are not part of VSS in during JFM phase.

Survey of NTFP collection and marketing facilities for 15 VSS.

Local VSS network is meeting regularly and discussing problems to follow up on them.

#### 11. MYTHRI

Illegal felling and smuggling are major problems in forest protection, these problems are discussed in range level meeting and sub committees are formed in each VSS for effective forest protection.

Due to protection and SMC works soil erosion has been arrested in 12 VSS.

Amla processing unit was started after providing adequate training.

VSS members in 12 VSSs contribute Rs. 50/- per annum towards VSS sustainability fund, thus in each of those VSSs the fund ranges from Rs. 5000/- to 30,000/-.

#### 12. NJMAS

Elections to VSS were conducted in all VSS. Awareness programmes on women's participation and Vanasamakhya are provided to them. Monitoring of food for work programmes in VSS villages.

Prepared a skill development plan for VSS members and submitted it to Mandal Revenue Officer for getting badget for the same.

#### 13. SWASAKTHI

Motivated VSS members to give importance to women in VSS. Women's participation has increased in VSS meetings in as well as decision making. In 3 VSS, women were elected as VSS Chairpersons.

Conducted a mass cycle rally in 41 VSS of Visakhapatnam range campaigning for awareness on women's participation, accounta bility and transparency in VSS. A leaflet explaining 14 stages in Microplan preparation was distributed.

In microplans, provisions were made to take up activities concerning women's empowerment, loans for agriculture and exposure visits at division and state levels to VSS members.

Towards enhancement of livelihoods of women, 30 women were trained in value addition of cashew. 2 Health camps were conducted in which 140 people from 12 villages got treatment to various ailments.

## IV. NELLORE DISTRICT

### 14. FUDS

Range level Network sustainability fund is Rs. 1250/- with contributions from each VSS @ 50/- per year. Forest protection committees have been formed in 25 VSS.

Self help groups formed. To improve financial position of VSS members vermicompost and candle making training programmes conducted.

Immediate help to fire victims of Masaipet VSS who lost houses and belongings in a fire accident, and mobilized resources from Revenue and forest department for house construction. Conducted campaigns on fire accidents and fire control methods.

### 15. NEEDS

Discussions held with Forest Department and VSS members for implementation of equal wages to men and women. Awareness programmes conducted regarding girl child labour, education, women health through 8 SHGs.

Network fund collected so far is Rs. 1250/-

The initially formed range level Network, Vana Samrakshana Adhyakshula Samakhya is guiding the range level local network VSS members Samakhya. Both are working together to solve problems.

In all the VSS, each VSS member household contribute Rs. 15/- to Rs. 50/- per month towards salary to watchman employed for protection of VSS forest.

### 16. PVS

CJFS lands are being developed through watershed programme with the help of DRDA. Facilitating housing programme for poor in few VSS, through district collector and DFO. Provided trainings on grafting Gotti trees with Regu (wild bushes used for fuel wood) for increasing yield thus by meeting fuelwood needs.

Awareness on various issues is being provided to VSS members through cultural programmes. Arranged National insurance scheme to all VSS members. Trainings and awareness camps to women on Sexual harassment, health and wages.

Formed Gender committees, Environment Protection Committees, School Committees and Natural Resources Projection Committees at VSS and range levels.

Mobilized resources from other sources for initiatives in water conservation, better agricultural practices, livestock management, etc.

### 17. CAMEL

In the last one year, CAMEL disseminated the following information to the VSS : forest protection, conservation and management of natural resources, water conservation, Biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, arresting out migration, protection of VSS plantation, grazing (development of fodder) fire control, watering of plants in VSS plantation area, importance of women's participation in VSS management, etc.

VSS members are contributing towards watchers salary for protection of VSS plantations.

The Network fund collected through contributions from VSS is to be used for campaigns and motivation camps in encouraging the those VSS lagging behind and to solve problems at VSS and range levels.

CAMEL is working towards integrating works on water & Soil conservation with Biodiversity conservation & raising of medicinal plants. The emphasis is on women's participation and empowerment of tribal and Dalits by linking them with various government programmes.

### 18. SPEAK INDIA

Formation of new SHGs and trainings on leadership to VSS women members. Awareness generation on CFM through meetings and cultural programmes. Strengthening women's committees in 18 VSS to make them take lead role in VSS management. Motivating VSS members for implementation of equal wages in 18 VSS.

Initiated work on non-pesticidal management (NPM) to encourage farmers go in for alternative agricultural practices.

Formed Ecoclubs in schools, took out rallies on environment awareness with school children.

Campaigns on tribal rights, took out rallies for protection of tribal rights.

Formed 4 new VSS and made representations to Forest Department on recognition of the same.

### 19. RREDO

Representations from all VSS regarding drought relief were sent to DFO, relief works sanctioned to few VSS and works started.

Species inventory and herbarium preparation is going on in all VSS.

Trainings conducted on bookkeeping, financial management, thrift, literacy, health, MFP collection, Panchayat Raj Act, forest laws, transparency, accountability, women's role in VSS management, strengthening of Vanasamakhya local Network, utilizing Government. welfare schemes, conflict management, technical issues in forest management, medicinal plants, forest protection, smuggling and forest fires.

## V. KURNOOL DISTRICT

### 20. CHRDR – Rudravaram

VSS boundary demarcation, smuggling, grazing and forest fires are major problems. A check post was installed by Forest Department in Ahobilam VSS.

Forest Department agreed to demarcate VSS boundaries after elections are held to VSS committees.

In future, expenses towards network meetings and trainings would be mobilized from 15 VSS. So far, 8 VSS contributed Rs. 200 each towards network fund.

It is envisaged to mobilize financial resources for Network through contributions from VSS as well as Minor Forest Produce (MFP) development and marketing project.

4 New VSS were formed and Forest Department recognition is awaited.

Due to political affiliations and interference in VSS, elections to VSS committees were not held as per schedule. The network identified 50 individuals with political connections and their details were forwarded to FRO requesting to keep them off from election process.

Trainings on Honey processing, gum collection and value addition, candle making and leaf plates making are planned and various agencies were contacted for necessary training and financial assistance. With value addition to Honey, 200 tribal VSS members in 3 VSS would benefit, the leaf plates making would provide employment to 300 people for a period of 6 months in Mittapalle VSS, candles making would provide employment to 20 persons throughout the year, Beedi leaf collection benefits 6,000 persons from 12 VSS for 3 months in a year, brooms collections would benefit 7000 persons from 15 VSS for 2 months in a year, gum collection would benefit 180 persons for 8 months and Amla would benefit 1000 persons for 2 months in a year.

### 21. CHRDR-Kurnool

Conducted campaigns on elections to VSS management committees and the importance of involvement of Panchayats. Provided trainings on leadership training and gender sensitization.

In Brahmanapalle Kothuru, Somayajulapalle and Siddnagattu VSS a rally was taken out with school children and VSS members on importance of forest protection.

VSS sustainability fund started in September 2002 in few VSS. Major issues identified by the network for follow up are: VSS boundary demarcation, NTFP collection, non-commencement of works in VSS, and need for fruit bearing plants.

So far the network could achieve the following: stopped outside labourers in VSS works, cancellation of contract system in carrying out VSS works, vacating the unauthorized occupation of VSS land.

## 22. SYA

The local network identified the following problems for follow up: illegal grazing in VSS area by neighboring villages, excess collection and marketing of firewood, NTFP (Beedi leaf, gum, tamarind etc.) thieving by neighboring villagers, smuggling of valuable timber (Teak, Rosewood etc.), thieving of bamboo and deer hunting. All the VSS are holding discussions with neighboring villages and evolving mechanisms to effective protection of VSS areas. Trainings conducted to VSS Management Committee members on: fire management, and food security.

Other resources mobilized include, irrigation facilities (water tank, bore well, pipelines etc.), live stock (milch animals, bullocks, sheep and goats), construction of bio-gas plants, smokeless chullahs and distribution of LPG gas connections.

As part of environment awareness campaigns, Vanam-Manam, tree plantation, pulse polio rally, clean and green rally and Neeru-Meeru were conducted. In 'save Nallamala' campaigns involved school children and VSS members. To stop smuggling of fuel wood, started a fuel wood sales depot at range level. However, the Forest Department is not showing interest in forming such depots.

## VI. ANANTHAPUR DISTRICT

### 23. CERA

VSS boundary is delineated in All VSS, protection walls constructed in 7 VSS and peripheral trenches excavated in 8 VSS as a solution to border disputes and encroachments of protection areas in VSS. PKM Tamarind, Agave, Asvagandhi, Amla and Jamoon are planted in all VSS on VSS members choice. Formed fire protection committees were formed in all VSS to face recurring fire accidents.

As part of enterprise development to VSS members, quick and high yielding variety plantations, milch animals, pickle making, thrift and credit through SHGs are provided by tapping other Government schemes as well.

A system of full payments to works carried out in VSS, without deductions towards percentages and any other expenditure is being implemented.

C-fees are obtained. The network common fund is accrued to Rs. 22,500 so far.

## 24. REDS

REDS networked VSS in 3 ranges, i.e., Kadiri, Bukkapatnam and Penukonda. The activities taken up in the year included protection of forests, enterprise development, skill up gradation, increasing involvement of women, creation of common fund and others. These activities are spread over 108 Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSSs) of which 26 are regular VSSs and 92 are network VSSs. Strengthening the range level federation in three ranges has been taken up. Work on marketing, orientation on FSR and women's involvement has been initiated through Network.

To reduce dependency on fuel wood, linkages with Deepam scheme were established to provide LPG stoves for 264 members from 26 VSS and smokeless chullas were provided to 32 members of 4 VSSs.

A common fund (Network fund) has been created towards taking up activities in the future for income generation, health, education and village development. The fund is gradually increasing.

Single women in each the VSS have been identified and economic assistance was provided to them by lobbying with the government. In 20 Regular VSSs, 10 members could access the Balika Sishu Samrakshana scheme through the ICDS. In 24 VSSs 138 (77 males and 61 females) members between 45 - 55 years of age have been linked to the *Akshaya scheme* in which 10 kg of rice is distributed. There are quite a few members who are yet to access the benefit under the scheme. Representations in this regard are pending with the Mandal Revenue Officer.

In the present drought season, consultations with the district administration have resulted in drought relief works in 26 VSS villages. The works ranged from tank bund formation, repairs, laying of approach roads, check dam repairs, desiltation in tanks / kuntas, repairs in supply and feeder channels, etc. In the regular VSSs, to prevent migration owing to drought, works were taken up assisting 1870 (1025 men and 545 women) members through involvement in drought relief works.

In 2 VSS, NFE centers were started for the working children. All the thrift groups in 26 VSS villages were linked to the Government / NABARD for revolving funds.

Health Camps were held to provide check ups and medicines for simple ailments and referral services for the severe ailments catering to 26 settlements. In all the 26 VSS villages a total of around 600 children were involved in environment related activities including nature trials to observe flora and fauna.

## **VII. CHITTOOR DISTRICT**

### **25. IRDS**

Formed local VSS network “Sri Padmavathi Vanasamakhya” in December 2002 and conducted one day training programme to VSS representatives on CFM and R&R policy. Problems identified in Network are: non commencement of works in VSS, smuggling, forest fires, illicit felling of trees and cattle grazing in VSS forest areas. These problems are resolved through awareness generation among VSS members and non-members. Under community development, people are being motivated to represent the problems to concerned Govt. departments to get drinking water, house construction for poor, approach roads and support to SHGs.

Strengthening self help groups in all VSS villages. Gender sensitization to male VSS members. Minimum wages and equal wages implementation in all VSS. Exploring the possibilities of marketing “Eathakulu” (Palm leaves) directly by the collectors to avoid middlemen. Involving youth and SHGs in environment related programmes.

## **VIII. MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT**

### **26. REEDS**

The range level network decided to give representations demanding removal of Eucalyptus plantations in their VSS and go in for NTFP bearing, endemic species.

Elections to VSS Management Committees have been conducted in 11 VSS.

### **27. SPD**

Problems faced by the VSS are: Non-demarcation of VSS boundaries, SMC works and being done by contractors using JCBs, estimates copies are not given to VSS and delay in payment to works done or no payment at all, encroachment of VSS area by local landlords and inaction of Forest Department officials illegal grazing, NTFP thieving by outsiders, timber smuggling, sand smuggling, etc.

The measures taken up regarding these problems include: VSS members physically stopping JCB works and sending resolutions, representations to DFO, FRO regarding estimate copies, JCB works, non-payment of bills, encroachments etc. They are also holding discussions with grazers to stop grazing and working out mechanisms to better protection, planting firewood species in private and waste lands.

The local Vanasamakhya made representations to the forest department requesting the Eucalyptus plantation be replaced with medicinal and fruit bearing species after next harvest. To enhance

women's participation in VSS activities, special meetings are conducted for them. As a result, women are actively taking part in VSS meetings and works. Also educating youth on environmental issues with a view to involve them in VSS activities.

Towards VSS sustainability, each VSS is contributing membership fee of Rs. 100/- per annum which accrued to Rs. 1100/- so far.

## **IX. MEDAK DISTRICT**

### **28. TDASS**

Problems in forest protection are firewood smuggling, sand smuggling, grazing, hunting, political interference, non cooperation by Forest Department and encroachments by neighboring VSS. Measures taken up to overcome the situation include, banning of grazing and imposing fine, intensified patrolling night guards were appointed, meetings, discussions and Gramasabhas to deliberate on such problems.

C-fees collected in two VSS. Held trainings to VSS Management Committee members on skill development and silvicultural activities. Other programmes include, campaigns on Nutrition food, personal hygiene and clean environment, kalajatha, rallies.

Encouraged VSS members to go in for gober gas plants, smokeless chullahs. Fodder species promoted in all VSS. Water conservation works (Percolation Tanks, Check Dams, SMC work etc.) resulted in ground water recharge in all VSS.

### **29. ROAD**

Motivation and awareness on VSS management to VSS Management committee and general members in all VSS through meetings and campaigns.

Conducted trainings to VSS members on skill development.

Collected NTFP data in all VSS. Provided awareness to VSS members on VSS elections

### **30. SCOPE**

Elections to VSS Management Committee completed in 7 VSS. Formed a section level VSS network with 9 VSS. Campaigns in 9 VSS involving school children, youth and women's groups on importance and uses with forest. In one of the network meetings, the exploitation beedi leaf collectors are facing from contractors and kalledars has been seriously deliberated and a resolution was made to stop the system of taking "extra bundle" (pechukattalu) by the contractors. The system has been stopped in two VSS already.

Campaigns on judicious usage of woden collected from forest poles during marriages and other occasions. The campaign resulted in usage of the 6-8 poles on rotation through out the year in each VSS.

Awareness campaigns to farmers clubs on ill effects of usage of chemical pesticides and encouraged them to go in for non-pesticidal management practices and plantations in their fields to meet firewood needs.

Made a representation to Agriculture department in Hyderabad seeking distribution of iron ploughs to farmers during next phase of Janmabhumi. As part of Dalit empowerment programmes, demanded for reservations in nominated posts, as a result of which one Dalit youth got nominated into DRDA as a member. Also conducted meetings for Dalit Gram Sarpanchs and motivated Dalit youth to avail self-employment schemes of Government. Conducted cultural campaigns on importance of clean environment and personal hygiene.

### 31. CARPED

Mobilizing community participation in protection of the forest resources and regulated utilization for bonafide needs. Strengthening of the Vana Samrakshana Samithis by enlisting participation of women members, beedi leaf collectors, etc. Campaign for effective VSS bodies free of party politics.

Resolution of conflicts between the VSS owing to problems arising from not demarcation of boundaries (for instance in Jakkapalli VSS Vs Tuniki VSS, Manthur VSS Vs Tuniki VSS etc). Strengthening of Beedi leaf collectors struggle for fair prices for their work and produce.

Integrating with other NRM based village level bodies. VSS committees are gaining strength as village committees vested with the responsibility of protecting and promoting their resource base. This has become another factor contributing to the identity formation of the VSS as an institution in several villages. Villagers see at as the rallying point for their membership and identity. Disputes between villages over the issue of demarcation of their forest boundaries have been an issue of conflict. They have used every means possible for seeking consensus and advice as well as support of the neighbouring VSSs and authorities.

Motivating and organizing the VSS members into user groups and addressing the special issues of interest to them to strengthen VSS activities in the areas of protection and management of forest resources. Livelihoods of marginalized sections were given emphasis in the activities during the year. Issue of illegal practices in taking a cut of 10% in the price of beedi leaf collected by the poor women in the forest adjoining villages was taken up in a concerted manner. The issue has been taken up through the Beedi Leaf Collectors Association consisting of women from several villages in the area.

A series of Kala jathas and awareness programmes were held to explain procedures of the election of committees. A team of Kala Jatha members toured all the villages and staged Kala jatha awareness programmes in the villages from 22 September to 8 October 2002.

Issues of reclamation of encroachments, conversions of land use, grazing policy, agriculture policy under the Vision 2020. Issues of drought were also discussed with the members of the VSS along with members of other NRM based village committees. Members of the SHGs were also active members in some of these consultations and meetings.

## **X. ADILABAD DISTRICT**

### **32. CEAD**

CEAD is working with 38 VSS in two ranges, Neredigonda (22 VSS) and Beersaipet (16 VSS). Provided information dissemination about NTFP marketing. In all VSS, equal wages to both men and women are being implemented. Trainings were given to VSS members on Bookkeeping, measurement of physical works in VSS, etc.

Motivated women to participate in VSS activities and meetings in large numbers. Campaigns on forest fire accidents.

## **XI. KHAMMAM DISTRICT**

### **33. ASDS**

Problems in forest protection are : smuggling of timber smuggling of firewood, sand and stone by near by villagers. Now these activities are effectively stopped as a result of constant negotiations and patrolling. ASDS identified local herbal leaders and requested them to serve the patients on every Monday from ASDS office premises. Training was given to SHG members on using herbs for treating common diseases for both human beings and animals.

Women's involvement/participation has measured in all stages of planning, implementation, monitoring and follow-up. Equal wages for women and equal sharing systems are being implemented.

Centralized NTFP marketing facility provided at Range level Network. The skills of micro marketing upgraded and the quality of products improved.

#### 34. SECURE

Range level network fund, accrued so far is Rs. 10,000/-. 4 Trainings were conducted to 100 VSS members on issues related to bookkeeping. 8 members visited VSS in other areas as part of exposure visits.

Range level network plans to start joint checkpoints to control smuggling.

As part of mobilizing resources to enhance livelihoods opportunities of VSS members, 120 iron ploughs, 3 irrigation bore wells, 20 community halls, 80 power sprayers, 50 hand pumps and 10 units of sheep were arranged.

Women members are active in decision making and they are receiving equal wages due to intensive motivation by network.

## **XII. WARANGAL DISTRICT**

#### 35. MARI

Awareness generation among VSS Management Committee members for regular meetings in VSS. Motivated people on Plantation in schools, Grampanchayat premises, health centres, hostels, Government offices and road sides during *Vanamahotsavam* programme and arrangements are made for their proper growth with adequate protection. Women's participation and empowerment increased in VSS activities.

NTFP survey conducted in 20 VSS of Pasra range and the same would be used for future plans.

### **III. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE**









## List of Partner NGOs - Ranges in which working

S. No	District	Organization	Total No. of VSSs guided	Ranges in which working
1	<i>Sikakulam</i>	SAMYOGITA	15	Pathapatnam
2	<i>Vizianagaram</i>	PMK	31	23 Vizianagaram, 8 Ananthagiri
		CODWEL	18	12 Parvathipuram, 6 SLR
		HARITHAMITRA	33	16 Ananthagiri, 17 Vizianagaram
		SMART	17	Salur
		ROSES	16	Kuruppam
3	<i>Visakhapatnam</i>	CCN	15	Peddabayalu
		GRAMABHYUDAYA	15	Chodavaram
		SVDS	10	5 Chodavaram, 1VSP, 4 YLM
		MYTHRI	10	Chodavaram
		SWASHAKTI	10	Visakhapatnam
		NJMAS	15	Yelamanchali
		SKDMM	15	4 Narsipatnam, 11 K.D. Peta
4	<i>Nellore</i>	CAMEL	16	Venkatagiri
		FUDS	24	Udayagiri
		NEEDS	21	Kavali
		PVS	20	Atmakur
		SPEAK INDIA	24	14 Venkatagiri, 10 Rapur
		RREDO	17	Venkatagiri
5	<i>Anantapur</i>	CERA	24	Gooty
		REDS	24	18 Bukkapatnam, 6 Kadiri
6	<i>Kurnool</i>	CHRD - Rudravaram	15	Rudravaram
		CHRD - Kurnool	15	Kurnool
		SYA	15	Velgode
7	<i>Chittoor</i>	IRDS	24	8 Karvetinagaram, 16 Puttur
8	<i>Medak</i>	CARPED	24	5 Medak, 13 Narsapur
		ROAD	13	Narsapur
		SCOPE	10	Narsapur
		TDASS	15	Medak
9	<i>Mahaboobnagar</i>	REEDS	24	Kodangal
		SPD	14	Amangal
10	<i>Adilabad</i>	CEAD	16	Beersaipet
11	<i>Khammam</i>	ASDS	13	10 V.R. Puram, 3 Chittoor
		SECURE	21	16 Palavoncha, 5 Ramavaram
12	<i>Warangal</i>	MARI	20	Pasra
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>35 Ranges</b>

**List of Additional Ranges**  
**(VSS Net works of non - project Ranges) being**  
**supported since July 2001 (from Phase I budget)**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>No.of Ranges</b>	<b>Ranges / Mandal</b>
1.	Adilabad	CEAD	2	Utnoor & Adilabad
2.	Khammam	Secure	3	Bayyaram, Dammapeta Amararam
3.	Warangal	Mari	2	Mulugu, Tadwai
4.	Medak	Road	2	Ramayampeta, Siddipeta
5.	Ananthapur	CERA, REDS	4	Ananthapur, Bukkapatnam, Penugonda, Kalyanadurgam
6.	Kurnool	CHRD, SYA	2	Chelama, Shivapuram
7.	Cuddapah	CHRD	1	Rajampeta
8.	Nellore	Needs	1	Nellore
9.	Visakhapatnam Chintapalli Mandals	SVDS	2	Ravikamatham &
10.	Vizianagaram	PMK	1	Anantagiri
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Districts</b>	<b>12 Org.</b>	<b>20</b>	

About 400 VSSs are there in these 20 range / mandal networks

**CWS - JFM – Partners Meeting (Annual)**  
**6 - 8 May 2002**

**Programme Schedule**

**6-5-2002**

- 9.00 am : Registration and submission of Annual reports and Accounts statements to Ms. Vasanthakumari
- 10.00am : Welcome & Introductions
- 10.30am : Work done at CWS level and information sharing - Suryakumari, Sreenivas & Suresh
- 11.15am : Information sharing on Monitoring visits - Partners and CWS
- 12.15pm : Information sharing on lateral learning visits - organizers
- 2.30 pm : R & R Policy - Discussion and follow up action
- 5.00 pm : About SERP - Velugu project, Mr. T. Vijayakumar, IAS (followed by interaction)
- 6.30 pm : Cultural programme

**7-5-2003**

- 9.00 am : Follow up work after visit to SUTRA - Bangalore
- 10.00am : Presentation of preliminary reports on studies - on Bamboo and Beedi leaf followed by discussions
- 11.00am : Concept Note for next phase - Presentations by CWS and partners – followed by discussions and clarifications
- 2.00 pm : Strategies for immediate action on -
- ❖ CFM GO campaign
  - ❖ Microplan
  - ❖ Trainings
  - ❖ Linkages with Velugu project
- 4.30 pm : Interaction with - Mr. C. Sivasankar Reddy, IFS., CCF-JFM  
- Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi, IFS., CF  
- Mr. SBL. Misra, IFS., CF
- 6.00 pm : Cultural Programme

**8-5-2002** Gender Concerns

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of CWS - JFM Partner groups  
held on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2002 at  
St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad**

**Agenda**

**Day One (29.12.2002) :**

1. 9.00 – 10.00 a.m. Registration
2. Information sharing on Work done so far
  - ★ Microplan Trainers Training meetings
  - ★ Inter-State meeting on Eviction Order held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2002 at Hyderabad.
  - ★ Evaluation Process and Report
  - ★ Participation in Workshop on Women's Work : Collaborative Leadership Development held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 at Bangalore.
  - ★ Participation in Regional Workshop on Federations and Networks in Policy Development: Analyzing Representative Organizations held from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2002 at Phuket, Thailand.
  - ★ International Training on "Sustainable NTFP Management for Rural Development held from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2002 at IIFM, Bhopal.
  - ★ Participation in Workshop on "Encroachment and Forest Lands and related issues to be held from 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2002 at Bangalore.
3. Finalization of Divisional Resource Centres
4. Presentations by functionaries of RRC's on work done so far.
5. Presentations on Monitoring Visits – October 2002 to March 2003.
6. NTFP Data Analysis.

**Day II (30.12.2002) :**

1. Vanasamakhyas Status
2. Status of Research Studies
3. Outline of the Proposal for Next phase
4. Travel Settlements

**CWS – JFM**  
**Special Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**On 02.05.2002 at 10.30 a.m. at CWS Conference Hall**

**AGENDA**

1. R & R Policy and Resettlement Action Plan
  - 1.1. Policy Perse
    - a. Salient Features
    - b. Views of Sri. Sharad Kulkarni
    - c. Views of Ms. Mamta
    - d. Views of Ms. Madhu Sarin
  - 1.2. Experiences from the field -  
Visakhapatnam District - Mr. Lakhi Deuri from CCN  
Adilabad District - Mr. A.P. Rao from CEAD  
Warangal District - Mr. R. Sambaiah - representative, Vanasamakhya
  - 1.3. Open discussion
  - 1.4. Wrap up
2. Centre for People's Forestry – Future course of action
3. Vanasamakhya general body meeting – Tentative agenda
4. Any other

**CWS - JFM Phase II  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
On 05-04-2003 at CWS Conference hall at 10.30 am**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Highlights of Evaluation Report
3. Next Phase Proposal submitted to NOVIB – Status
4. Reporting on the Work
5. Discussion on New JFM guidelines issued by the MOEF
6. Forest land ownership issues in the context of CFM in AP- Course of action proposed by CPF
7. Advisory Committee meetings held during Phase II -Summary report
8. Reconstitution of Advisory Committee
9. Any Other

**MEETING ON  
ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN FOREST BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

- Date : 28th December 2002  
Venue : Press club, Basheerbhag, Hyderabad  
Time : 10 AM to 5 PM
- 10.00 AM : WELCOME & INTRODUCTION -Sri. G. Srinivas. CPF
- 10.30 AM : THE BIODIVERSITY BILL -Sri. P. V. Satheesh
- 11.00 AM : NEED FOR FOREST BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-  
Forest Department officials
- 11.30 AM : TEA BREAK
- 11.45 AM : SHARING OF EXPERIENCES ON FBR PREPARATION PROCESS  
★ Resource Persons  
★ CPF - CWS Team  
★ Partner NGOs  
★ VSS Members
- 12.30 PM : INTERACTION WITH THE PRESS
- 1.30 PM : LUNCH
- 2.30 PM : ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN FOREST BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION  
- Dr. K. Kameshwar Rao
- 3.00 PM : ROLE OF LOCAL BODIES IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION  
- Dr. T. Prabhakar Reddy
- 3.30 PM : RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY DOCUMENTATION & COM-  
MUNITY FOREST BIODIVERSITY REGISTERS - Dr. B. Ravi Prasad Rao
- 4.00 PM : CHALKING OUT FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION - Dr. D. Suryakumari, CPF
- 4.30 PM : VOTE OF THANKS. Ms. Bhavana Rao, CPF

## **PRESS NOTE**

Press Club,  
Basheerbagh, Hyderabad  
28.12.2002

A demand to recognize the Vanasamrakshana Samithis as Local Biodiversity Management Committees. For the purpose of Biodiversity Act was made by a convention on "Role of Communities in Forest Biodiversity Conservation" held at Hyderabad today (28.12.2002).

The convention organized by the "Centre for People's Forestry" in collaboration with Centre for World Solidarity and Deccan Development Society discussed the role of Community Biodiversity register and local communities in conserving forest biodiversity in Andhra Pradesh.

Placing the demand for recognition of VSS as local bodies and their inclusion in local Biodiversity Management Committees, as envisaged by the Biodiversity Bill recently passed by the Parliament, Dr. Suryakumari of Centre for People's Forestry said that according to the survey made by over 600 VSSs all over the State had revealed that the overwhelming dependence on products of Forest diversity was primarily by - the Women, Dalits and Adivasis. Therefore, the VSS groups which were primarily comprised of these vulnerable sections of the community should get a major representation in the Local Biodiversity Management Committees.

Introducing the salient features of the Biodiversity Bill Mr. P. V. Sateesh, Director, Deccan Development Society, underlined the primary role that it offered the local communities. He also spoke on the features of the draft National Biodiversity and Action Plan and emphasized the recognition by the plan to the women and men from the disprivileged section and their knowledge on biodiversity in determining the equity issues.

The convention discussed the process through which 34 detailed forest biodiversity registers prepared by a number of VSS groups and NGOs across Andhra Pradesh. It also discussed the way forward in such documentation of people's knowledge on biodiversity surrounding them and using them as a tool against biopiracy and illegal bioprospectivity.

Mr. G. Srinivas of Centre for People's Forestry, Dr. B. Ravi Prasada Rao of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Dr. K. Kameshwara Rao of Andhra University along with Ms. T. Annapurna representing MYTHRI NGO; and Sri Bakeer Narsimhulu of Durgampalli VSS in Nellore District spoke about the process of making People's Forest Biodiversity Registers. Dr. T. Prabhakar Reddy of CWS explained the need for involvement of local institutions in the Biodiversity conservation and protection.

110 members representing VSSs and NGOs from 12 districts participated in the convention.

**Dr. D. Suryakumari**

Director

Centre for People's Forestry - CWS

## **Voices against Eviction of Tribals and Dalits**

*(Note by Centre for People's Forestry for circulation in the Interstate meeting on 3-10-2002, at IACIS in Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad)*

### **BACKGROUND**

For the last seven years the Supreme Court (SC) of India has been hearing a case - Writ petition 202 of 1995, T.N.Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India. While this started off as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by an ex estate owner in Gudalur, Tamil Nadu who was distressed by the illicit felling of timber from forests nurtured by his family for generations which have since been taken over by the Government, the Supreme Court has extended the scope of the petition to all parts of the country and has passed significant judgements at various points of time. The case is popularly referred to as the "forest case".

On 18-2-2002, the SC passed the following orders in IA 703. "The Chief Secretaries for the States of Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Kerala are directed to file a reply to this IA (No.703), in so far as it concerns the said states in relation to the steps required to be taken by them to prevent further encroachment of forest land and in particular the land in the hilly terrains, national parks and sanctuaries etc. It should also be indicated as to what steps have been taken to clear the encroachments from the forest which have taken place at an earlier point of time. Affidavits are to be filed by the said states and the Union of India within four weeks. (This background information is from the note by Ashish Kothari and Madhu Sarin)

### **THE MOEF CIRCULAR**

On 3-5-2002, the MOEF issued the circular on eviction of encroachments (enclosed) addressed to the Chief Secretaries, Secretary Forests and PCCFs of all states and Union Territories, outlining a time bound action plan for this eviction (to be completed by 30-9-2002).

On 9-5-2002, the SC ordered the setting up of a Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

On 3-6-2002, a notification was issued nominating the members of the CEC, consisting of three officials from MOEF and two NGO representatives. This committee came out with its recommendations in July which were placed before the Chief Justice of Supreme Court for orders on 9-9-2002, but the matter has now been adjourned to 22-10-2002. The CEC endorses the MOEF letter and recommends the removal of all post-1980 encroachments from forests within a short time span. None of the states except J&K have responded to the recommendations of CEC. The states have been given time till the next hearing (22-10-2002) to raise objections to these recommendations.

### **LAPSES**

The MOEF circular and the CEC recommendations are against the prescriptions of the National Forest Policy of 1988 on the one hand and on the other are totally ignoring the 6\*\* earlier orders issued by the MOEF itself in 1990, as well as the recommendations of the Commissioner SCc/STs approved by a committee of the GOI and the central cabinet in 1990.

\*\*these are under the circular No 13-1/90-FP and are as under:

1. FP1 Review of encroachments on forest land
2. FP2 Review of disputed claims over forest land, arising out of forest settlement
3. FP3 Disputes regarding pattas/leases/grants involving forest land
4. FP4 Elimination of intermediaries and payment of fair wages to the labourers on forestry works
5. FP5 Conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and settlement of other old habitations
6. FP6 Payment of compensation for loss of life and property due to predation/depredation by wild animals

Forest settlement in point 2 above refers to the “settlement of rights” process followed by the government when it acquired forest land and notified them under various categories. The process involves conducting an inquiry into the rights exercised by people in or over the forest being notified and documenting them.

#### Implication

The circular and the CEC recommendations, if implemented, would amount to a death blow to the livelihoods of not only around one crore tribal population across the nation but also a large number of Dalits, and other forest dependent communities.

#### **THE CPF-CWS VIEWS**

- ★ Eviction of any forest dependent member should not be attempted by the state and National governments. Instead they have to develop strategies to make the situation of people better, than the present.
- ★ A study on the extent of forest dependence by the Dalit community in different states has to be commissioned immediately and in all future forestry projects measures are to be incorporated to safeguard their livelihoods.
- ★ Identification of encroachments by vested interest lobbies has to be initiated immediately (and the details made public) and such forest lands have to be taken into the government fold at the earliest.

#### Expectations from the meeting

- ★ Developing clear strategies and specific tasks on future course of action by different players i.e., The NGOs(includes international donors), the Government, the CBOS and the Political parties
- ★ Sharing of responsibilities on the tasks identified (who should do what) and drawing up a time bound action plan

**A brief report on the Interstate meeting - “VOICES AGAINST EVICTION OF TRIBALS AND DALITS” held on 3-10-2002, at IACIS in Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad organized by Centre for People’s Forestry and CWS**

55 members who were present in the above day long meeting discussed in great detail on - the MOEF circular dated 3-5-2002, the recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the implications of these to the Adivasi, Dalit and other poor forest dwelling communities and felt that this amounts to a “death blow” as far as their lives are concerned.. Members also shared the strategies adopted by different groups in different states to persuade the Union Government as well as the respective state Governments to take measures to withdraw such orders. All the members unanimously resolved to make the following demands:

- ★ Eviction of any forest dependent member should not be attempted by the state and National governments. Instead they have to develop strategies to make the situation of people better, than the present.
- ★ A study on the extent of forest dependence by the Dalit community (and other non tribal sections) in different states has to be commissioned immediately and in all future forestry projects measures are to be incorporated to safeguard their livelihoods.
- ★ Identification of encroachments by vested interest lobbies has to be initiated immediately (and the details made public) and such forest lands have to be taken into the government fold at the earliest.

Members have resolved to discuss the matter in People’s institutions at the village level i.e., the Panchayats, the VSSs, other SHGs and encourage them to send their views in the form of Gramasabha resolutions to all concerned at state and Central government levels. (The list of persons to whom such communications are to be sent are already under circulation and hence not mentioned here).

Centre for People’s Forestry and Centre for World Solidarity would communicate the same to all NGOs and networks who are associated with them and encourage them to follow the above course of action in the area of their operation.

NGOs at the local level would also discuss with the local political leaders and other concerned citizens to build up opinion among other civil society members on such an important matter like this.

Suryakumari

4-10-2002

Note: List of participants is in the following page.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Vanasamkhya (State VSS Federation)	-	7
Hyderabad based NGOs including NGO Committee on PFM	-	11
CPF Partners from the Network Programme	-	4
Regional Resource Centres - CPF	-	4
CWS Programme Staff	-	10
CPF Trustees	-	5
CPF Staff	-	6
<b>Other States Representation</b>		
Prof. Sharad Kulkarni	-	Maharastra 1
Mr. Yonus Ranfan Singh	-	Orissa 1
Ms. Mamatha	-	New Delhi 1
Prof. Radha Mohanji	-	Orissa 1
Mr. Dasharathi Senapathi	-	Orissa 1
Mr. Edward M. Arokia Doss	-	Tamilnadu 1
Mr. Gilbert	-	Tamilnadu 1
Mr. Giri	-	Orissa 1
<b>Total No of Participants</b>		<b>55</b>

Key facilitator – Sri. Sharad Kulakarni

## Vanasamakhya General Body Meeting

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2002Venue: St. John's Regional Seminary  
Ramanthapur, Hyderabad

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

#### DAY I

##### Forenoon

- 9.00 - 10.00 a.m. : Registration
- 10.00 a.m. : Welcome
- : Report by the Core Committee
- : Finalization of Vanasamakhya Membership
- : Election of Vanasamakhya Executive body

##### Afternoon

- : Discussion on Registration of Vanasamakhya
- : Allocation of Responsibilities to Executive Body members
- : Sharing responsibilities by other members for
- ☞ Advisory Councils of Regional Resource Centres
  - ☞ Awareness building
  - ☞ Campaign activity
  - ☞ Resource persons
- : Information sharing on
- ☞ Status of R& R Policy ; Grazing Policy
  - ☞ Gender Mainstreaming and Equity concerns at VSS level

#### DAY II

##### Forenoon

- 9.00 - 11.00 a.m. : 1. C.F.M G.O - Implementation Status  
2. Microplan Dissemination Strategy
- 11.30 - 1.30 p.m. : Release of Maa Adavi and other publications

##### Afternoon

- : Pending issues at the field level - Strategies
- : Date for Vanasamakhya Executive Body, meeting
- : Vote of Thanks

## **Microplan Training Module for Facilitator \* Team**

Trainers - Atleast 2 (one from FD & one from NGO)  
 Participants - 30  
 Duration - 6 days

### **Lecture Sessions - Two days**

#### **Day – 1**

Session 1 - Microplan; Importance, Different Stages of Microplan  
 Session 2 - Constituion of Facilitation Team and their responsibilities.  
 Session 3 - Baseline Survey  
     A. Village & Household Survey  
     B. Forest Survey

#### **Day – 2**

Session 4 - PRA and the tools to be used for Microplan process  
 Session 5 - Safeguard issues - Special plans and vulnerable groups issues  
 Field Visit - Two days (**Day 3 & 4**)  
     Sample data collection ; PRA exercises

### **Consolidation & Plan Preparation - Two days**

**Day 5 :** Group exercise - Draft Plan Preparation Presentation of Plans - Clarifications

**Day 6:** Writing the information in the Microplan Format Conclusion

\* Facilitator Teams should be constituted VSS wise.

Team should include

- Two VSS representatives (one man and one woman)
- One Forest Official
- One NGO representative and
- VAO (may not attend training but should assist the team at village)

## Module for Trainers Training on Microplan

Duration : 3 days

Day	Time	Session	Theme	Person	
<b>Day - 1</b>	Forenoon		Welcome	Dr. D. Suryakumari	
		10 - 10.30 a.m.	Warming up exercise		
		10.30 - 11.00 a.m.	Microplan importance; stages and Constitution of Facilitation Team and their responsibilities		
	Afternoon	11.00 - 12.00 noon	1		PRA & the tools to be used in Microplan preparation
		12.00 - 1.00 p.m.	2		Lunch Break
		1.00 p.m.			
Afternoon	2.00 - 3.00 p.m.	3 A	Baseline Survey - Village & Household Survey	Mr. G. Srinivas	
	3.00 - 4.00 p.m.	3 B	Baseline Survey - Forest Survey & Treatment Plans.	Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi	
	4.00 - 5.00 p.m.	4	Safeguard issues - Special plans and vulnerable group's issues.	Dr. D. Suryakumari	
<b>Day - 2</b>	Forenoon		Warming up exercise	Data generated at Narayanapur VSS was provided by Facilitators. This included PRA information also in charts	
		10.30 - 1.00 a.m.	1		Group exercise on preparation of different plans using the data
		1.00 p.m.			Lunch Break
	Afternoon	2.00 - 3.30 p.m.	2		Presentations
		3.30 - 5.00 p.m.	3		Identification of Gaps and clarifications
<b>Day - 3</b>	Forenoon		Warming up exercises	Individual exercise	
		10.30 - 1.00 p.m.	1		Writing the Microplan in the Format
		1.00 p.m.			Lunch Break
	Afternoon	2.00 - 4.00 p.m.		To be decided	
		4.00 - . 500	2	Scrutiny & Suggestions	Facilitators

**Meeting with Writers & Folk Artists**  
**8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

- ★ Welcome - Mr. K. Suresh
- ★ Introductions - Participants
- ★ Purpose of the Workshop - JFM Team of CWS
- ★ Subjects - CFM G.O  
- Microplan  
- Vanasamakhyā
- ★ Individual Exercises - Participants
- ★ Presentations to the Group & Suggestions
- ★ Finalisation of few art forms

## Report on Exposure Visit TO MPVS, Madhya Pradesh

### Introduction:

Centre for People's Forestry has organized an exposure visit for Vanasamakhyia Network members from 5<sup>th</sup> March-12<sup>th</sup> March 2003. Mr. K.Suresh and Mr. G. Solomon Raj jointly took the responsibility of organizing the tour. A sixteen member team (8W+8M) with two Centre for People's Forestry team has visited Madhaya Pradesh Vigyan Sabah (MPVS) which is based at Bhopal (MP). The team has also visited some of MPVS field stations Gaildubba, Patakot, and Thamia of Chindwara district.

Tour participants represented from different levels, right from VSS members to NGO chief functionaries who have a fair amount of interest and motivation for learning and to become resource persons at the Grass root level.

### List of Participants:

S.No	Name of the Person	Sex	Age	Representatives	Organization
1	Mr. P. Lachiram Nayak	M	33	Convenor VS	SPD
2	Mr. R. Sambaiah	M	38	Advisory -VS	MARI
3	Mr. P. Tavuria naik	M	30	VSS	SYA
4	Mr. B. Dandasi	M	47	VSS	SAMYOGITA
5	Ms. K. Prameela	M	32	Sec -VS	PVS
6	Mr. M. Seetharam	M	28	VSS	CCN
7	Ms. Vara lakshmi	F	28	RRC	CHRD
8	Ms. V.N. Anuradha	F	40	NGO	NEEDS
9	Ms. M. Seetha Bai	F	24	Trea - VS	CEAD
10	Mr. M. Chantanna	M	26	RRC	CEAD
11	Ms. K. Suvarna	F	29	VSS	ROAD
12	Ms. R. Vijaya lakshmi	F	27	Member - VS	IRDS
13	Ms. Buchamma	F	40	VSS	SECURE
14	Ms. C. K. Mahalakshmi	F	28	VSS	PMK
15	Mr. P. Devender	M	30	VSS	SCOPE
16	Mr. Chandra Shekar	M	32	Member - VS	REDS
17	Mr. K. Suresh	M	40	Resource person	CPF
18	Mr. G. Solomon Raj	M	31	Resource person	CPF

### **Exposure Visit to Tour Schedule**

The exposure visit primarily aimed to inculcate interest and enthusiasm among the participants toward a collective and network approach. The exposure visit was planned with a sole objective to Study Network initiatives of Communities and collective efforts made by People's Networks and the collective NTFP marketing strategies.

The team has visited State Forest Department Central Medicinal Plants Nursery at Thelkari along with other field locations of MPVS.

### **TOUR SCHEDULE**

3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2003	:	starting from Hyderabad.
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	:	Reaching Bhopal
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	:	Interaction with MVS
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	:	Field Visit
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	:	Field Visit Interaction Field visit to co-operatives
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	:	Interaction with FD and NGO Network
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	:	Departure form Bhopal

### **Participants:**

A team of Eighteen members (9 Men and 9 Women) including two facilitators from CPF. Most of the participants are representing community based networks and Grassroots level NGOs.

### **Major outcomes:**

All the participants were excited and learnt many aspects of NTFP and Value addition methods for different NTFP products.

### Details of Monitoring Visits during the year April 2002 to March 2003

**Purpose of the Visit** : Monitoring - One Network meeting with representatives from all the VSSs and visit to one to three individual VSSs during every monitoring visit.

**Reports** : shared with the Internal committee on JFM in CWS (Mr. M.V. Sastri, Mr. K. Rama Rao Dr. D. Suryakumari, Mr. G. Srinivas, Mr. K. Suresh, Mr. G. Solomon Raj & Ms. K. Bhavana Rao) and also with partners in subsequent meetings.

S.No.	Name fo Partner Group / Range in which working	Visit During 2002 April- 03 March		VSS Visited
		Date	By CWS / Internal monitoring by JFM Partner Group	
SRIKAKULAM				
1	SAMYOGITHA	12.4.2003	Mr. K. Suresh, CWS	Kittalapadu, Savaramalva & Patha Savaramalva
VIZIANAGARAM				
2	PMK	1.10.2002 2.20.2002	Mr. Sashikumar, PVS	Kothamunginapally, Bati- valasa, Tungagumilli
3	CODWEL	11.9.2002 12.9.2002	Ms. T. Annapurna, Mythri	Gummadivalasa Jeeligavalasa
4	HARITHAMITRA	9.4.2003	Mr. K. Suresh, CWS	Bethapudi
5	SMART	25.8.2002 To 28.8.2002	Mr. S. Govindaiah, IRDS	Itikavalasa, Gummadivalasa & Botsadavalasa
6	ROSES	29.9.2002 30.9.2002	Mr. Sashikumar, PVS	Gangannadoravalasa, Panasabhadra
VISAKHAPATNAM				
7	CCN	12.8.2002	Dr. D. Suryakumari, CWS	Munchingphut
8	GRAMABHYUDAYA	28.9.2002 to 29.9.2002	Mr. Venumadhav Rao Secure	Garikabanda, Boddarevu Ramachandrapuram
9	SVDS			
10	MYTHRI	25.9.2002 to 27.9.2002	Mr. Venumadhav Rao Secure	Garisingi Kotturu
11	SWASHAKTI	23.9.2002	Ms. A. Nagamani ROSES	Choudawada & Eswarachouduwada
12	NJMAS	25.8.2002 26.8.2002	Mr. G. Srinivas & Mr.G.Solomon Raj-CWS	Chinnagollalapalem
13	SKDMM	24.9.2002 25.9.2002	Ms. A. Nagamani ROSES	Chintalapudi

NELLORE				
14	CAMEL	21.9.2002	Ms. T. Annapurna, Mythri	Paderu
15	FUDS	27.8.2002	Mr. G. Srinivas, CWS	Kancheruvu
16	NEEDS	28.9.2002	Mr. SatyabhupalReddy	Sirigirivaripalem
17	PVS	29.9.2002 18.9.2002	REEDS Ms. Omana, Samyogita	Kanpur Chunchuluru
18	SPEAK INDIA	30.8.2002	Dr. D. Suryakumari, CWS	Sanganapalli
19	RREDO	14.9.2002	Mr. Satish of CARPED	Mahasamudram
ANANTAPUR				
20	CERA	8 <sup>th</sup> -11.9.2002	Mr. K. Suresh, CWS	Mucthukota & Narsampalli
21	REDS	24.3.2003 25.3.2003	Mr. B.V. Jagannadh,	Batreipalli, Jagannapaet & Alampur
KURNOOI				
22	CHRD-Rudravaram	13.11.2002	Ms. Anuradha, NEEDS	Pandirlapalli & Velagapalli,
23	CHRD - Kurnool	15.11.2002	Ms. Anuradha, NEEDS	Bramanapalli, Kalva
24	SYA	12.9.2002	Mr. Satish of CARPED	Abdulapuram
CHITTOOR				
25	IRDS	17-19.12.2002	Mr. K. Suresh, CWS	Battikandika
MEDAK				
26	CARPED	24.09.2002 to 28.09.2002	Mr. Shivaji, Harithamitra	Mohammadnagar, Ibrahimbada, Jakkapalli, Manthur & Railapur
27	ROAD	5.2.2003	Ms. K. Bhavana Rao Mr. P. N. Srinivas Rao & Mr. V. Someshwer Rao -CWS	Verification of Accounts
28	SCOPE	5.2.2003	""	""
29	TDASS	5.2.2003	""	""
MAHABOONNAGAR				
30	REEDS	20.5.2003	Mr. K. Suresh	Lingampalli
31	SPD	26.9.2002 27.9.2002	Ms. Rajaratnam, NJMAS	Anmaspally Thanda Mudwin

ADILABAD				
32	CEAD	20.9.2002	Mr. K. Trinadha Rao Dantanpalli	Verification of Accounts
	Gramabhyudaya	31.1.2003	Ms. K. Bhavana Rao Mr. P. N.Srinivas Rao & Mr. V. Someshwwe Rao - CWS	
KHAMMAM				
33	ASDS	12.10.2002	Mr. K. Trinadha Rao Gramabhyudaya	Chukkanapally & Moddulagudem Molakalapalli, Anaram, Mogaralakuppam & Kommagudem
34	SECURE	19 -21.9.2002	Mr. S. Govindaiah, IRDS	
WARANGAL				
35	MARI	30.4.2003	Mr.G. Srinivas	

## **Concerns shared with the members of the Supervisory Mission of the World Bank in connection with APCFM on 24-02-2003 at the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**

1. **Microplan Preparation:** CPF put forth lot of efforts in preparing the training manual and organized the trainer's training programme for NGOs and Forest officials. The expectation is that the Forest Department would conduct trainings in the field with the help of the trainers (25 FD officials and 28 NGOs). However, to the disappointment of CPF, forest department never bothered to organize trainings at field level despite the heavy demand from NGOs. CPF had to organize two trainings in its RRCs to the partner NGOs and a few non partners too using the meager resources available with it. Such attitude of the officials should not be tolerated and systems to take action against the same should be in place.
2. **Proper systems:** CPF observed that as of now, the attitude of individual officials is playing a great role in the implementation of the CFM GO which is not a good sign. Proper systems have to be designed and put in place at the earliest to check the situation.
3. **Minutes Books:** VSS should have their own minute's books and their freedom to discuss and minute any issue/matter of importance to them has to be respected. The department may maintain separate books to suit their requirements.
4. **Implementation of CFM GO:** It has been made very clear to the officials and the Mission members that CPF is participating in the programme not to help the FD in getting another project, but because this promises empowerment of people and speaking about the livelihoods. For the same reason, CPF contributed to the preparation of the CFM GO. The situation in field is not encouraging and CPF strongly cautioned the Department that if the GO is not implemented completely in **letter and spirit**, and if situation warrants disillusionment of people about the same, then CPF would **not only opt out from participating in the programme but also would turn against it.** In this connection it has been suggested that the benefits accruing to communities in the form of C-fees as well as sale of other forest products has to be made available to all preferably in the web site.

In response, the PCCF assured that the required care and attention would be taken towards the proper implementation of the CFM GO. He also requested the NGOs for their continued support and participation in the programme. He also promised that steps to keep the information in the web site will be initiated.

**Dissemination of material along with communication to  
CWS - JFM Partner group from 2002 April to March 2003**

S.No	Communication dated	Subject of the Communication and the material enclosed
1	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2002	The following material has been sent to partner groups 1. Highlights of instructions in the FBR Format provided to partners earlier. Instructions to review meetings and instructions to follow the FBR Format thoroughly 2. VSS Resolutions Model for Forest Bio diversity registers 3. A format on Follow up on trainings imparted to local communities with additional financial assistance from the JFM Project in Telugu and English
2	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2002	Communication sent to all the partner groups regarding Gender Mainstreaming in JFM along with the format as enclosure on Gender Questions
3	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2002	Communication sent to the partner groups with the following Books encl. 1. Resttlement Action Plan 2. Notification 3. Tribal Development Plan 4. Social and Environmental Assessment - Executive Summary and 5. Environmental Management Plan partners are requested to pay special attention to booklets 1 & 2 for depth discussions during the partners meeting to be held from 6th to 8th May 2002
4	14 <sup>th</sup> May, 2002	As result of the partners meeting of 6th - 8th May the partners are requested to send the consolidated information of all the VSS and range level VSS networks in CWS - JFM network and also requested to send the information covering all the following 1. Overall status of each VSS 2. Current Social composition of Each VSS 3. Details of range / NGO level Networks 4. Range / NGO level Networks linkages with others 5. Range / NGO level network's activities To send the above information a format has been designed and sent along with this letter

5	17 <sup>th</sup> May, 2002	<p>Communication sent to the partners along with following encl.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rajesh's mail dated 02.05.2002 on DNRM site on "Controversy over AP Community Forestry Project"</li> <li>2. Response by Dr. D. Suryakumari on our position</li> <li>3. Resoibse by Dr. D. Suryakumari regarding Stakeholder Consultations</li> <li>4. Copy of Press Release</li> <li>5. Decision of the Annual Partner's meeting</li> </ol>
6	29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2002	<p>Regarding Vanasamkhya meeting with mention of venue of the meeting.</p> <p>Requested all the chief functionaries to attend this meeting as several important decisions are to be taken as a follow up to the Annual Partners meeting and also think over on the following and send us their responses by 7.6.2002 :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be on the State level committee to styategise the campaign plans</li> <li>2. To be on the Panel of Resource Persons / Advisory group to help ' guide the Regional Resource Centres</li> <li>3. To identify and state one / two important pending issue/s (as per their priority) of your area fro taking up State level campaign/s, for which the strategy has to be drawn up in the June 18th &amp; 19th meeting.</li> </ol> <p>we have mentioned that the person interested to be in the above committee has to devote some time to look after committee's activities and the following has been enclosed to the letter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tentative agenda of Vanasamkhya meeting, 2. Format for the profile of participants from VSSs and 3. Status of th follow up activity after visit to SUTRA</li> </ol>
7	30 <sup>th</sup> May, 2002	<p>Information sent to the partners on the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shifting of People's Forestry office to old Office of CWS</li> <li>2. Status of Ford Foundation Fuding to Regional Resource Centre and it is also mentioned that the proposal is with Ministry of Economic Affairs for formal clearance as per the norms of Ford Foundation</li> <li>3. Ms. Usha (who participated in partners meeting of may for the last day as consultant along with Ms. A.Kalamani) mail written to DNRM site about the meeting and conveyed negative impression. the mail was enclosed and requested the partenrs response on the same.</li> </ol>

8	24 <sup>th</sup> June, 2002	communication regarding the meeting of Vanasamkhya which was held successfully on 18th and 19th June, 2002 and information regarding the election of executive committee. Due to lack of time on the meeting days partners have not shared their views regarding vanasamkhya for this purpose a format(feed back form) was sent to the partners along with this letter.
9	25 <sup>th</sup> June, 2002	A format has been sent to some of the partners on which their preference to be associated with the following committees 1. Awareness Building Committee, 2. Vanasamkhya Advisory Comm., 3. RRC Advisory Committee, 4. Campaign Committee and 5. Resource Person Panel it was informed that they can associate with any number of committee they wish.
10	26 <sup>th</sup> June, 2002	<p>Communication reminding the partner groups on a few short listed issues for a state level campaign and to initiate the process keeping their deadline in mind. The issues are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harvest of Eucalyptus Plantations and Planting of new species</li> <li>2. Demarcation of Boundaries of VSS Forest</li> <li>3. Works in VSS by outside contractors.</li> </ol> <p>Reminded the partners on plan of action for which they have agreed in the meeting as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VSS general body and local federation will send minutes of all their meetings containing discussions on the above matter and resolutions to be considered if applicable - Deadline for this is 20th July</li> <li>2. Local Network to approach the DFO for response on the issues - before 20th August</li> <li>3. Demonstration in each of the VSS, in presence of state level Vanasamkhya members before 20th September</li> <li>4. Demonstration of strength on mass scale before 20th October. they are requested concentrate on the following with regard to Demarcation of boundaries' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOEF Guidelines of February 2000 provides for allocating area in the high forest too to the VSS. This becomes important when only degraded forest is allotted to VSS, as CFM aims at livelihood security of people concerned ; - Allowing VSS to raise intercrops, where new plantations have been raised to provide income to the members;</li> <li>- the clearly defined boundaries are to be incorporated in the MOUs.</li> <li>- the clearly defined boundaries are to be incorporated in the MOUs.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

11	22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2002	Draft Concept note for the Next Phase of Forestry work and to send their responses on the same.
12	22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2002	<p>Plan for monitoring visits with encl of list of persons who are assigned for Monitoring visits with a mention of groups which they have visit against their names and the following aspects to be covered during the visits,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vanasamakhya process (VSS to local federation and from there to State) ;</li> <li>2. R &amp; R issues documentation (earlier it was advised to document atleast in 3 VSSs);</li> <li>3. CFM GO implementation status (formation of committees etc);</li> <li>4. Complaints Committee status;</li> <li>5. Watershed approach in treating VSS forest area (separate note will be sent);</li> <li>6. follow up work on the concept note (extent of discussions with VSS &amp; Federation on proposed work);</li> <li>7. Status of the campaign issues (as decided in June meeting, wherever applicable).</li> </ol> <p>it was requested to organize local federation meeting during the visit and one man and one woman are to be invited from additional Ranges for interaction meeting.</p>
13	24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2002	Modalities for Monitoring visits for the selected team of persons and are requested to plan their visits in consultation with the groups identified to them and to complete the visits and send their reports and travel accounts before 30th September 2002
14	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2002	In continuation to the earlier communication regarding Watersheds a format on Inventory of locations for convergence of watersheds has been enclosed and requested them to send back the formats before 31st August.
15	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Herbabrium sheets has been sent to the Visakhapatnam partner groups by SRMT and information regarding the same was sent to the partners.
16	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Herbabrium sheets has been sent to the Nellore partner groups by SRMT and information regarding the same was sent to the partners.
17	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Herbabrium sheets has been sent to the Vizianagaram partner groups by SRMT and information regarding the same was sent to the partners.
18	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2002	<p>Communication regarding the Evaluation of the Project, dates for evaluation 5th to 15th October, and the names of evaluation team has been sent. In connection to the evaluation they are requested to note the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner's meeting and the date will be sent later after the finalizing schedule</li> <li>2. requested to prepare 3 minutes presentation during the meeting</li> <li>3. field visit to some groups will be organized during evaluation</li> <li>4. during the visit they are requested to arrange network meeting. requested the partners to be available during the dates.</li> </ol>

19	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep. 2002	Communication regarding the evaluation with enclosures as Prog. Schedule and format in which they have to give presentation for 3 minutes during evaluation. Date and Venue of the meeting is also mentioned.
20	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep.2002	Regarding the change of venue arrangements for partner's refreshment purpose during the evaluation meeting on 7.10.2002 from Y.M.C.A. to ASRC and clarified that one member from each organization has to attend the meeting.
21	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep.2002	A Copy of the annual report for the period 2001 to 2002 and Two copies of Vanasamakhya Genesis, structure & Functioning were sent to all the partner groups.
22	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct.2002	In Executive Committee meeting of Vanasamakhya held on 8.10.2002 it has been decided to Register Vanasamakhya according to the resolutions passed in the General Body meeting. In this context CPF has been sent resolutions to all partner's along with the communication dated 23.07.2002 and this is the reminder letter to them for sending their reflections on the resolutions on or before 07.11.2002 as there is a meeting of Executive Committee on the day.
23	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2002	All the partner groups are requested to send their half yearly report for the period covering from 1st April to 30th September 2002 along with Unaudited statement of accounts for enabling us to release the second installment for the activity.
24	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct.2002	Mr. K. Jayaraju of Samyogitha was requested to send statement of account along with vouchers for expenditure incurred during the Bamboo Study
25	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002	Inform to partners regarding the meeting of Biodiversity on 28th Dec. 2002 and partners meeting on 29 & 30th of December 2002. Accommodation arrangement details along with an enclosure of CFM Project implementation Budget copy for Information and 30 copies of Micro Plan Phamplet to each group Few complimentary copies of "Maa Adavi" News letter for each partner group
26	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002	Sharing about the positive evaluation report and informed that the report will be sent to them later and informed that the concept notes submitted by them are being reviewed for preparing the proposal for the next phase. Positive recommendation of the evaluation team to establish Divisional level Resource centres and thought of CPF to establish 10-12 such centres in next phase. some of the partners have sent their interest to establish such centres and other NGO partners are requested to send their interest in this regard. A copy of recent MOEF circular was enclosed (circular dated 30.10.2002)

27	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002	Requested the chief functionary of the organization to attend the partners meeting to be held on 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2002 with an enclosed of Tentative agenda for the meeting.
28	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002	Sent a note on proposed Participatory Action Research Study on "Sustainability of Vanasamrakshana Samithis and the Role of Girijan Cooperative Corporation" in Andhra Pradesh and also enclosed 3 formats in Telugu to collect information in connection with the study. Requested to collect information in 2 VSSs where GCC activity is more in their area..
29	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2002	Referring to our earlier communication dated 6.8.2002 a reminder was sent to the partner groups to send Inventory of locations for convergence of Watersheds with VSS.
30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan. 2003	As per the decision in Partners meeting 5 volumes on AP Community Forest Management Project for study has been sent to 5 Partner NGOs and requested them to come prepared for the meeting to be held on 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2003 at CPF
31	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2003	Communication was sent along with enclosures : 1. Involvement and Participation of NGOs in Andhra Pradesh" - a Booklet and 2. Decisions taken in the Partners meeting of December and reminder to send GCC formats for those who have not sent them till date.
32	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2003	Some instructions as guidelines to prepare Forest Biodiversity Registers to the partner groups.
33	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 2003	Information regarding the submission of proposal to Novib and as shared earlier the of Rs.90,000/year/group working in the World Bank projects districts has been deducted and also mentioned that CPF could not make any provision for the DRCs in the budget. Mentioned that we are thinking to explore other sources and it will take some time to do so. It was also informed that the representation of request to sanction of Rs. 90,000 per group working in the world Bank Project was sent to PCCF and a copy of the letter was also sent to State NGOs Committee on PFM. (All the communications were enclosed)









## **Programme Schedule for the Evaluation Team**

6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002

<b>6-10-2002</b>	Arrival at Hyderabad
11.00 a.m onwards	Presentation on work by CPF team & interaction
<b>7-10-2002</b>	
10.00 a.m onwards	Meeting with 35 partners –Presentations and interaction
5.00 p.m	Interaction with CCF JFM at Forest Department
<b>8-10-2002</b>	
10.00 a.m	Interaction with members of NGO Committee on PFM
3.00 p.m	Interaction with Executive committee members of Vanasamakhyha (State VSS federation) CPF office
4.00 p.m	Departure to Srikakulam by Train
<b>9-10-2002</b>	Visit to Samyogita organization
	Night halt at Srikakulam
<b>10-10-2002</b>	Margaret and Suryakumari to PMK of Vizianagaram and Sreenivas&Sreenivas to NJMAS of Visakhapatnam districts separately
5.00 p.m	Departure to Hyderabad by train
	Margaret and Suryakumari to board at Visakhapatnam and Sreenivas& Sreenivas at Yellamanchili
<b>11-10-2002</b>	
Forenoon	Sreenivas,Suresh&Soloman to Kurnool,CHRD
10.00a.m	Margaret, Sreenivas and Bhavana to SPD
<b>12-10-2002</b>	Margaret, Sreenivas and Bhavana to REEDS
<b>13-10-2002</b>	<b>Margaret &amp; Sreenivas to work on the report</b>
<b>14-10-2002</b>	
10.00 a.m	Interaction of Evaluation team with Suryakumari, Sastri garu and RamaRao
12.00 noon	Debriefing and inter action with JFM advisory committee members, Trustees of CWS and CPF and CWS staff
<b>15-10-2002</b>	Looking into Monitoring systems - Programme and Financial, at Office - Sreenivas with CPF team and CWS Finance team

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALUATION MISSION

As per the ToR, the Mission prepared a draft report and shared it with the project staff, trustees of the project, colleague NGOs, a number of VSS leaders and other stakeholders for discussion on October 14, 2002. The meeting was attended by a large number of key members in spite of a major festival on that day. The recommendations given here include suggestions from the meeting.

The project has made good progress in the last three years since the last evaluation; it has been effective both at the policy level and at the village level and should be continued. The process of empowering marginalised people and giving them their entitlements to forest resources is bound to be a slow one which needs many years of support but the gains in the last period are visible. The project is to be congratulated on its good work and perseverance.

Proposals made by the project for the future which the Mission supports:

1. Regional Centres for training
2. Divisional centres specialising in particular issues e.g. bamboo management and marketing, gum tapping
3. Forest Biodiversity Registers
4. Rapid implementation of microplanning
5. Autonomy of CPF

Other topics which the Mission suggests should be taken up in the coming period :

1. **Training** the VSSs in making their own economic assessments of works to be done, so that it is less easy for them to be exploited, whether it be simple estimation of earth work done or computation of MFP potential and collection. Insurance from exploitation is the development of knowledge base. While forest dependent population have traditional knowledge, this needs to be refined and strengthened so that their use as labour and for other purposes gets them due returns.
2. Project should make some careful **economic assessment** of the returns to forest management in terms of likely annual income for timber and MFPs, under different physical conditions (regions such as Telangana, Rayalaseema and Andhra). The purpose is to give villagers an understanding of the likely returns on their investment in forest management. This should be done in combination with microplanning and in consultation with the FD. The idea is to work towards a 'business plan' for the village. "Business" plan here implies adopting a professional, scientific approach and does not necessarily indicate a pure commercial approach such as is favoured by the contractors. The business plan would ensure long term ecological as well economic interests of the VSS. Any such plan should first meet with the "traditional" requirements of the community before sale/ marketing is thought of. It should provide realistic expectations and enable villagers to make their own decisions concerning inputs and outputs of forest management, and what investments should get priority.
3. In this regard, existing experiences should be consulted. FRHLT in Bangalore has good experience and is currently working on such business strategies, particularly focussing on value addition for MFP (storing/ processing. etc). A Revolving Fund for this value addition needs to be earmarked. Efforts may be made to

involve bankers and other financial agencies such as NABARD for this purpose. In addition, there is also a need for working capital to ensure that the value addition processes which are time taking are carried out on sustainable basis at least till the market starts yielding returns.

4. In cases where the income from forest is likely to be insufficient, efforts should be made to increase the volume (and where necessary, diversity) of MFP in the forest by plantation, in keeping with the microplan.
5. In cases where it is clear that income from MFPs will never be sufficient (for reasons of not adequate forest area/ or the highly degraded status of the area), project should **link with other ongoing programmes** such as watershed, to find alternative income sources.
6. Project should consider the possible **entitlements and requirements of surrounding populations** who have no forest, to forest products under VSS control, and what to do about it. The **role of panchayat** becomes very important here especially in addressing conflicts. The sarpanch is already a member in the *ad hoc* committee; further motivation of sarpanches is required to make them more effective. Traditional rights may have to be codified.
7. The village gets a 50% share of the timber from JFM/CFM areas. But there are confusions regarding the methodology (including bench marking) of computation of this percentage; the **microplan methodology** should be expanded to cover methods for this. The Project should also facilitate a careful discussion on this matter as part of policy advocacy.
8. Ensure that VSSs understand that payment for labour will come to an end, probably at the end of this phase of CFM, and that subsequently they will have to survive on the produce, and maintain the forest themselves. Many VSSs are still fixated on the labour days they get from FD.
9. **Plans for the podu cultivation should be based on livelihood economy**; project should **explore forms of agroforestry** or other means of ensuring people's interests and livelihoods in the forest. It is suggested that the term '*podu*' can be confusing and that the term 'forest areas under cultivation' would be a better one. Brainstorming/Discussion with VSSs and other stakeholders will bring forth a range of options on the issue of such cultivation and on how to limit new entries to such cultivation. The evaluation appreciates the strong stand on evictions that the project has taken and supports this, and recognizes that the issue of *podu* is already being tackled to a certain extent in the CFM. However, there are certain areas of conflict arising due to differing viewpoints between the forest department and the NGOs/VSS. It is therefore important that these viewpoints are addressed forthright to make the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Programme in CFM more effective.
10. Firewood and charcoal may be MFPs of value in some places where there is an urban market. The project should **investigate** the possibilities of **systematic firewood harvesting from forest** and organising this trade as part of the microplan by the VSS/ Vanasamakhya.
11. **Gender Analysis in connection with MFPs**: it is important to carry out a thorough gender analysis to look at whether the whole MFP collection, storage, processing and marketing processes (both planned and ongoing in a few places) has resulted in increased work load on women. If so, then alternatives including proper sharing of burden among the men and women needs to be considered.
12. As regards training of NGO partners, a **ToT on Livelihood Analysis** on all aspects including those mentioned above needs to be done with a sustainability dimension from economic and ecological points of view. This training will help the community to think properly and plan suitably their microplans. **Sustain-**

**able agro-forestry** has a good scope which needs to be looked at, in particular, in areas where the forest growth is poor.

13. The project is working on an initiative called “commercial intelligence” to provide market information on MFP to the VSS. The Mission appreciates this effort but recommends that unless this effort is tied up with the whole range of MFP activities, it will not be effective. It is important that the commercialisation of MFPs does not become an isolated activity but reflects overall forest management.
14. The project should **strengthen/ encourage NGOs to function in a more listening mode** as opposed to the patronizing approach used presently by a few, so that a real two-way communication with the VSS/ communities is established. The patronizing approach probably has much to do with lack of self confidence as it was observed that the older, more established partner organizations also had a better way of communication with the VSS members (see Chapter 3, Box 3).
15. As regards the *Vanasamakhya*, the Mission had a number of recommendations:
  - ★ Project needs to help *Vanasamakhya* understand its role. While some understanding exists in some members, it is not uniformly available across all the members of the VSSs which is very essential as the representative area of each member would be appreciable.
  - ★ The *Vanasamakhya* members need to realize that they are working at a higher platform and also have the critical interfacing role with the FD. However, we see their reactive function as being a good role in that the state NGO committee functions in a pro-active way.
  - ★ *Vanasamakhya* should really become a representative of all the VSS irrespective of whether the VSS are promoted by NGOs or by the FD or under any other scheme.
16. The project should **study the VSS network structure and the *Vanasamakhya***, particularly the flow of information, and whether this is the best means of communication. After one year, an assessment should be made of the functionality of the *Vanasamakhya*.
17. Women NGO workers and the heads of the partner NGOs should **document any complaints regarding gender discrimination** in general and at large, and CPF should consider this with the entire partner group. It is understood that many cases of such discrimination occur during interactions with NGOs which are not directly under this project.
18. **Documentation** needs to be done from the following angles :
  - ★ Overall process documentation;
  - ★ Experience of *Vanasamakhya* experiment;
  - ★ Select VSS experiences as case studies;
  - ★ Select MFP documentation such as the bamboo, firewood, soapnut and tamarind.

The above documentation should also have outreach beyond the state. Hence, publication in English is recommended.
19. The issue of **land legislation/ long term security of rights** to forest needs to be explored. The period of Agreement is not stated anywhere. Although senior officials in the department feel that the JFM/CFM cannot be reversed with at least 1.5 million people involved, the Mission feels that there should be a written clarity as it is an unequal power situation (with power for any change vested in the bureaucracy/government).

20. Regarding the **Biodiversity Registers**, the Mission finds this a good useful initiative. These registers can be used for monitoring change in the forestry health.
21. The Mission agrees to the suggestion that the 600 VSS form a “critical mass” as regards improved practice for the JFM/CFM programme. This group is big enough for reliable conclusions to be drawn. The project should however look very carefully at how these VSS are influencing the other 400 VSS which are not directly covered, and could see them as ‘vehicles of transmission’. In general, the Mission feels that further scaling up in terms of numbers of VSSs supported should not be encouraged. There is still effort required in terms of ‘handholding’ of the existing organisations. The new initiatives in the form of division and regional resource centers for training VSSs throughout the State could form a different basis for further outreach.
22. As regards monitoring, while the overall **monitoring systems** are in good shape, the Mission had a number of suggestions for improvement:
  - ★ The visit by project (CPF) staff is at present done once in 6 months to any given project. This appears to be too infrequent to ensure systematic follow up on any suggestions by the review team. The Mission feels that the programme staff may be allotted say 7 NGO partner activities each. All project related correspondence, activities, issues and the like may be routed through the particular programme staff member. Even accounts-related aspects may be routed through him/her for ratification. This approach brings the project and the NGOs closer and establishes an online “communication” channel. For the project staff, there is more space created for professional growth. This suggestion was discussed with the concerned staff and the Director CPF which was welcomed.
  - ★ Further, the Mission also recommends strongly in the context of monitoring, provision of computers along with email facility. Hardly 5-6 NGOs have computers at the moment. Computers will save a lot of time and energy, in addition to money, as against writing reports by hand, and in exchange of correspondence. This will also help strengthen documentation.
  - ★ The email facility will also provide a boost to the “networking” activity which is essential especially in the context of policy advocacy where opinion needs to be built up.
  - ★ It is also suggested that the reports submitted as part of cross learning or lateral learning follow a check list that may be evolved for the purpose of comparative assessment and improvement. Presently, these reports vary very widely in terms of content, presentation and recommendations. The check list may contain sections such as “three new learnings”, “three take away ideas” and “three mistakes I would like to avoid”.
23. The Mission feels that it may not be very desirable, at least for now, for the project to go too much beyond the CFM in its scope. Although there are topics (such as management of sanctuaries/eco-development areas) that might be included, the Mission feels that spreading effort like this is not to be encouraged as energies will get frittered away. However the Mission suggests that CPF, in discussion with all partners and trustees, makes a new and clear statement of its own role and Mission for the future.

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