

Project Update: August 2006

Project activities started in May 2006. There was initial mistrust of outsiders in the local community as some people recently leased the adjacent *beel* (wetland), used this land to borrow money and flew away with the money, leaving the landowners to repay the bank. With the help of local people who know our research activities in adjacent areas, we convinced the community of our good intentions. We have already completed several activities. A census indicated that 220 households live around Korgar beel and use its resources. The baseline survey of 90 randomly selected households representing landowners, fishers and women is completed. A problem census with four different stakeholder groups has been undertaken and a



Traps for catching fish



Korgar Beel-Monsoon season

participatory action plan has been developed. The participants propose to form a community-based wetland resource management committee in a community level meeting in September 2006. The committee will comprise of different stakeholder representatives. We have prepared a script on integrated floodplain management for open air theatre which the local theatre group is rehearsing. The play will be performed after the next harvest in September. The committee will assess local training needs. The project leader will then arrange relevant practical trainers. Exposure visits to areas that have adopted integrated floodplain management practices will be arranged after the harvest.