

*Generation of Awareness
And
Rural Development Society*

*Opp: Kakatiya School,
SBI Colony,
Kurnul road,
Ongole-523 002,
Prakasam District,
South India*

Sub: Submission of Final Report on the Project Activities – ‘Sustainable Harvesting of Mangrove Resources to Ensure Food Security in 26 Tsunami Affected Traditional Fisher folk Villages: Guntur District.’- Reg

Ref: 26.07.05

Namaste. I am S.Madhava reddy, RSG Recipient and Executive Secretary, GARDS is very much pleased to submit the details on the project activities taken during the project period. It is thankful to Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation for its generous financial support to execute the Mangrove Conservation project in 26 Tsunami affected villages of Guntur district. I had received the Grant Amount in March 2006 due to some technical and communication problems. The project had been initiated in April 2006 and carried out its activities till the last day of March 2007. Project activities were implemented on par with project objectives and predetermined goals. I request you to kindly accept the liberty taken in expenditure side due to the need and compulsion but within the budget limits. I like to inform you that we had received Rs.276321/- only due to the fluctuations of foreign exchange rates after the conversion of Grant amount in to Indian Currency as against the total amount of Rs. 3, 82,750/-planned. The actual expenditure was Rs. 3, 82,930 and the balance amount was met by GARDS from its funds. Please acknowledge the receipt of this report. I am always happy to provide any kind of additional information in this regard. Please feel free to contact us.

E-Mail: devgards_ngo@yahoo.co.in

With thanks and kind Regards,

MrS. Madhava Reddy.

Project Title:

Sustainable Harvesting of Mangrove Resources to Ensure Food Security in 26 Tsunami Affected Traditional Fisher folk Villages: Guntur District.

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Project Period: April 2006 to March 2007

Grant Amount : Rs.3,76,321/-

Supported By : The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation,
LONDON,

Implemented By:

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Introduction:

With the prime objective of ensuring livelihood security for the mangrove dependant traditional fisher folk families through education, motivation and training on sustainable management and harvesting of mangrove resources, the project has been launched in April 2006. Starting with Kalajatha (Traditional Media) Programmes in 26 villages of Nizampatnam and Repalle mandals of Guntur district, concerted efforts have been made to attain the project objectives within the stipulated period. Grassroots institutions such as Mada Chetla Samrakshana Samithi(MCSS) and Self Help Groups had been formed and trained well on various concepts associated with mangrove ecology and community ownership during the reporting period. Basing on the participatory methodologies, capacity building activities to strengthen the grassroots institutions were taken up successfully and involved a large section of fisher folk women in project activities. Focusing more on women centered alternative livelihoods, training programs have been organized on Bee-Keeping, Vermi - Composting and Hand Embroidery Works.

To establish a strong information base and prepare village level micro- plans to attain the project objectives through incorporating people priorities and aspirations, participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) has been conducted in 26 villages during the reporting period. This has helped us to identify the villages where intensive efforts are needed. The impetus has also on facilitating active partnerships and group formation with primary stakeholders and this has been achieved to an adequate degree. Efforts were made to raise the Mangrove sapplings at Military Colony, Lankevanidibba and Adavuladeevi in order to take up plantation in association with Forest Department.

About the Project Area:

The Guntur District is surrounded by Nalgonda and Krishn Districts in North, Prakasam District in the south, Prakasam & Mahaboob Nagar Districts in the West and Bay of Baengalabnd Krishna District on the Eastern side. The average rainfall of the district is 890 mm and highest rainfall is recorded this year in October 2006. The river Krishna has its course and many rivulets of Krishna enter the Bay of Bengal in this district. The Mangrove wetlands are found in 70000 acres of land on either sides of Krishna river mouth. They served as potential barriers to the disasters and helped the people in reducing the risks and damages. They represent a rich and drivers living resource and are valuable to both the economy and protection of coastal environments. It is understood that mangroves serve as barriers to coastal storms. , conservers of soil, supporters of sustainable fisheries, providers of medical plants and fuel wood and fodder, habitats of wide range flora and fauna, sources of genes for sea water tolerance and above all as the flagships of nature's ecological security system in coastal estuaries. They also serve as spawning and nursery grounds for many economically important marine resources.

Demographic Profile of the Target Area:

Sl.No	Name of the Village	Total Houses	Total population	Male	Female
1.	Pasumarthivari Palem	71	370	170	200
2.	Gokarnamatam Pallepalem	235	1100	300	800
3.	Gokarnamatam Reddypalem	110	400	200	200
4.	Gokarnamatam Telagapalem	91	600	350	250
5.	Thamas Peta	50	340	175	165
6.	Military colony	79	260	110	150
7	Teppamola Sangham	36	170	100	70
8	William Bharat Nagar	70	300	150	150
9	Muniretu	42	176	87	89
10	Bellamkondavaripalem	72	230	120	110
11	Chintarevu	166	550	250	300
12	Dindi – Adavala	227	800	400	400
13	Kesanavari Palem	51	300	140	160
14	Jampaneni vari Palem	40	250	125	125
15	Yemineni Vari Palem	59	150	70	80
16	Parisavari palem	100	600	325	275
17	Narravari palem	185	700	335	365
18	Nakshtra Nagar	260	800	375	425
19	Kottavuru	230	500	250	250
20	Kottapalem	550	2500	1250	1250
21	Seeraja Nagar	400	1600	780	820
22	Pathuru	100	350	175	175
23	Tallatippa	157	326	170	156
24	Muketheswara puram	70	260	125	135
25	Maredupalem	59	230	110	120
26	Mollagunta	824	3200	1590	1610

Activities Implemented During the Reporting period:

Under the Headship of Mr.S.Madhava Reddy, GARDS has kept Two project Associates on the job. They were trained in key components of the project, participatory methodologies and cooperative Principles. Community organization, Ecological and Economic Importance of Mangrove Ecology, Plantation Methods, Mangrove Management Plans and Monitoring and Evaluation systems had been the other topics covered in the 05 days Training. Besides accessing the services of community leaders and expertise of Dr.R.ramasubramanian, Ethno Botanist, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Kakinada, Mr.Madhava Reddy and Board members could complete the planned activities with in the time frame and without any

deviation. The activities taken up during the reporting period are detailed basing on the report of evaluation team and timely reports submitted by the project staff.

Education and Awareness Generation:

As 85% of the fisherfolk populations are illiterates, we had to find an easy and a sustainable way to communicate the message on mangrove ecology basing on the traditional media. The Project Staff had collected the information on mangrove ecology and its conservation and management methods from MS Swaminadhan Research Foundation, Kakinada that involved in this line in 04 Indian States. We have consulted Mr. Asirvadam, Consultant in Theatre Arts to seek his cooperation in preparing IEC material integrating with cultural themes. We have identified 10 Artists for *Kalajatha* Team (a Group of Artists) and trained them in traditional media, Songs, Golla Suddulu, Folk Dance, Burrakatha, a traditional method of story telling, Mime, Play lets etc for 10 days in GARDS Office, Ongole.

The *Kalajatha* team had performed these themes in 26 villages for 10 days and each artist has been paid an honorarium of Rs. 1800 /- . The cultural programs had been able to communicate various basic themes significantly relevant to the importance of mangrove resources, consequences of destructing them and collective approaches. This had been very effective in educating the people and won the hearts of the audience as we can see well from the CD and photographs. The response of the audience has also been documented. Besides these activities, discussions on conservation and restoration methods were organized in the common places of villages where people generally gather by the project Assistants during their visits.

Details of Kalajatha Team Members

M.Asirvadam, 2/3 Bhagya Nagar, Ongole-523001, Prakasam District	K. Anji Reddy, Near Zakraiah Hospital, Ongole-523001, Prakasam District
P. Tirumala Rao, S/o Venkata subbaiah, M. Nidamanur Post, Tangutur Mandal, Prakasam District.	Y. Subba Lakshmi, D/ O Brahmaiah, kadavakuduru Post, Chinaganjam Mandal, Prakasm District.
Y. Suresh , S/O Nageswara Rao, M. Nidamanur Post , Tangutur Mandal , Prakasam District.	K. Venkateswarlu, S/ o Kotaish, Pusikandu post, Chinaganjam Mandal, Prakasm District.
Y. Naga Mani, Nethivari palem post, Kondepi Mandal, Prakasm District.	N. madhu, Pernametta Post, Santhanutahlapadu Mandal, Prakasm Dsitric.

T. Anjali, D/o Pullaiah, Kadavakuduru post, Chinaganjam Mandal, Prakasm District.	N. Markandeyulu , Nethevari palem post, Kondepi Mandal, Prakasm District.
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Narration of Kalajatha Performances:

The Kalajatha Team members used to reach the village in the evening and select a common place where most of the villagers and women in particular join together. They announce about the performance that starts around 7.30p.m. Burra Katha, a traditional way of Story-Telling is employed as a tool to introduce the proceedings and narrate the main inferences of the theme performed. The Play let has been divided in to Five Scenes and each scene starts with introduction and narration of Burra Katha team of three members.

In the First Scene, Two fishermen are ready to go for fishing and this shows how they were happy with more fish catch. They come back with heavy load of fish catch. Their wives waiting at the shore are too happy to see many fish and prawns in particular in the boats. The women grade the fish and take them to the market asking their husbands come home early. This Scene highlights the life and living of fishermen and fishing in the olden days. The Second Scene starts with the discussions of women who come to fetch the drinking water in the well. They discuss how the sweat water of the well turned saline over a period of time. They are wondered at the reasons for the change and they say that it is their karma. They also discuss how the salt water troubling them and causing ill health of children.

Gender inequalities that are prevalent among the fisher folk communities are well shown in the third scene which starts with the fishermen playing cards. They are generally free once they come out from fishing. In the Scene, a girl comes to the place where her father is playing cards to take her father home for taking his sick daughter to the hospital. The father who is troubling with heavy count in the game says that he would join her mother at the Bus stand and let her mother bring the child to Bus Stand. As the innocent girl insists on her request, he gets angry and beat his daughter indiscriminately. His wife rushes to the spot and tries to save her daughter demanding why he is doing so. This angry man beats his wife too. When the volunteer from GARDS ask the same question, this angry man says that girls or females are waste and they should be at the commands of men. The volunteer explains how the women are investing their energies for the family and finally ask the villager if he can stay at least a day with out his wife and her services. Finally the villager accepts the argument and agrees to look after the children equally without any prejudices and irrespective of sex.

Fourth Scene starts with two villagers are discussing on the plans to start a profitable businesses. After discussion, they decide to start shrimp farming as it is more profitable now a days. The young man is curious to know where they can get land for the purpose as there is no vacant land to buy and spread the shrimp ponds up to the thresholds of fisher folk villages. The Elder man suggests that they can get land by encroaching the mangrove area and cutting down

the mangroves. To the doubt raised by the Young man, the elder says that a few gifts and money will do the work and he would deal with the Villagers and Government departments.

The Two fishermen who were once happy with heavy catches in the olden days are now seemed to be sun tanned and unhappy of their profession and now go to the sea for fishing. Despite several trials and going to far off places in the sea, they could not get the catch that is not adequate even to meet the fuel expenses. The women waiting at the shore for their husbands are unhappy to see a few fish and ask how they can live and lead life with the needs of children. The volunteer from GARDS again enter in to the scene and explains the reasons for their present troubles and low catches. Quoting the clear examples, he says that the indiscriminate destruction of mangroves for various purposes is the main reason for their misery and problems. He further explains how the mangroves support the breeding and feeding of marine resources and in turn the lives of fisher folk families. They finally agree to save and protect the mangroves for their own well being.

Golla Suddulu is a kind of traditional art that is employed to teach the good practices and Ideals. It is a kind of art that combines song and dance very effectively. Through employing this form of art, efforts are made to convey the immediate need of Mangrove Conservation and Protection. We have tried to say that the Mangrove Tree is gifted by Lord Siva to look after and work for the welfare and development of fisher folk communities and it is their duty to save. There will be no fishing and fishing community when there is no mangrove plant at sea mouth. We have also tried to narrate the project activities and welcome the local communities take part in the project activities.

Village level Meetings:

Village level meetings have been organized once in every month in 26 villages to seek the community commitment, cooperation and their involvement in the project activities. A wide range of audience such as Village leaders, elders, youth groups, women groups and bottom line government functionaries etc were involved. Village level Issues, Relief and Rehabilitation measures, existing mangrove resources, traditional wisdom on resource management, development infrastructure, mutual cooperation in conflict resolution, mangrove conservation and restoration and the key areas considered for village level meetings. The attendance in these meetings was very low in the initial months and it was in between 10 and 18 members.

To improve the public participation, Technical devices like Audio and Video equipment were used extensively besides making efforts to convince the community leaders and people representatives. Resources persons had been employed appropriately to provide scientific and technical information on mangrove ecology and its conservation/restoration. Monthly meetings have helped us in MCSS Formation, SHG Formation, Village level Campaigns and MACS Formation.

Besides these, to enhance the people participation village level influential persons like Kapus, Panchayath Presidents, MPTC members etc were imparted one day training held at Ongole and

participants are paid food and travel costs. Community development issues, Resource mobilization, tapping up of Government Resources, Liasoning etc were discussed in these meetings. Initial problems like low turnout to the village meetings, absenteeism in the training programs and demand from the public for money and material had been slowly minimized and finally sought their acceptance, cooperation, involvement and commitment to the effective execution of project activities.

Formation of Mada Chetla Samrakshana Samithies : MCSS :

Village level meetings and frequent visits to the villages by project assistants had been finally resulted in organizing the people in to various grassroots groups. With a view to sustain the changes brought by the project activities in the long run as well as make them responsible to plan, implement and monitor mangrove reclamation and management activities at village level, we had formed 26 MCSSs in the project area. Each MCSS is being managed by a 05 Members Executive Body and it was decided to collect Rs. 10 as annual membership fee.

Membership enrollment in MCSS is at present ranged between 50 and 175. Lowest membership is recorded in Teppamolla Sangam while the highest enrolment of 175 is recorded in Mollagunta village. In 13 villages, Bank accounts were opened in the name of MCSS to carry out financial transactions jointly by the President and One member from Executive Body. Training programs had been conducted at regular intervals to equip these Committees with needed information and skills. The agenda of these training programs are as follows:

- ❖ Democratic Leadership
- ❖ Community Preparedness
- ❖ Community Mobilization Strategies
- ❖ Resource Mapping
- ❖ Preparation of Micro Plans
- ❖ Conservation and Restoration Methods
- ❖ Resource Mobilization
- ❖ Principles of Joint Mangrove Management

Formation of Women SHGs:

With a view to accelerate the women status at all levels and create productive assets through involving the women in Thrift and Credit Groups (SHGs), the project team had made concerted efforts to organize the fisherfolk women in to SHGs. With 10- 12 members in each SHG, 559 women were involved in this activity. Except in 05 villages where the eligible women are not available, a total 51 SHGs were formed in the project villages. Each Group is saving Rs. 300 /- to Rs. 600 /- per month for the last 04 months and the village-wise details of SHG women are furnished in the table given below:

Sl.No	Name of the Village	Total Houses	No.of SHGs	Members Involved
1.	Pasumarthivari Palem	71	02	21
2.	Gokarnamatam Pallepalem	235	02	20
3.	Gokarnamatam Reddypalem	110	01	12
4.	Gokarnamatam Telagapalem	91	01	10
5.	Thamas Peta	50	**	
6.	Military colony	79	01	10
7	Teppamola Sangham	36	**	
8	William Bharat Nagar	70	01	11
9	Muniretu	42	**	
10	Bellamkondavaripalem	72	01	11
11	Chintarevu	166	02	23
12	Dindi – Adavala	227	03	31
13	Kesanavari Palem	51	01	12
14	Jampaneni vari Palem	40	**	
15	Yemineri Vari Palem	59	**	
16	Parisavari palem	100	01	13
17	Narravari palem	185	03	36
18	Nakshtra Nagar	260	04	43
19	Kottavuru	230	03	32
20	Kottapalem	550	06	68
21	Seeraja Nagar	400	06	64
22	Pathuru	100	02	21
23	Tallatippa	157	01	10
24	Muketheswara puram	70	01	10
25	Maredupalem	59	01	12
26	Mollagunta	824	08	89
Total			51	559

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):

PRA Activities have been started in the month of August 2006 and completed in 45 days in all 26 villages. 6 members PRA Team consists of community members, project staff and two women who passed SSC have been constituted to take up PRA study. Team members have been trained by two Resource persons both on practical and theoretical methodologies and application of PRA Tools for 07 days in GARDS Office, Ongole from 02-08-2006 to 08-08-2007. Prior to taking up this exercise in target villages, One day orientation meetings had been organized to educate the local population on the importance and benefits of PRA study.

PRA exercises were carried out to understand the social and economical conditions of the villages and assess the existing and available mangrove resources. Efforts were made to study and assess the existing mangrove conservation and management practices. Local demand and pressure on mangroves in all seasons had also been studied while incorporating people concerns and aspirations in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Reports. This was done in 26 villages. The series of meetings with the women with the members of MMS by the project staff after completing the PRA in the target villages helped in better understanding of the aims and objectives of the project by the community.

PRA tools employed:

- Well being ranking
- Trend analysis and time line
- Social mapping and Resource Mapping
- Seasonality Mapping
- Venn Diagrams
- Historical Transect
- Cob- Web analysis and Snake and ladder analysis
- Livelihoods: matrix analysis

PRA Findings:

1. Mangrove Species Identified in the Area and Status during PRA: Kottapalem

Plant species	Local Name	Habitat	Status
Aegiceras corniculatum	Guggilam	Tree	common
Avicenia alba	Elava mada	Tree	common
Avicenia marina	Thella mada	Tree	Common
Avicenia officinalis	Nallamada	Tree	Abundant
Excoecaria agallocha	Thilla	Tree	Common
Bruguieragymnorrhiza	Kandriga	Tree	Less frequent
Bruguiera cylindrica	Urudu	Tree	Common
Ceriops decandra	Thogara	Tree	Common
Rhizophora apiculata	Ponna	Tree	Abundant
Clerodendrum inerme	Pisingi	Tree	Common
Lumnitzera racemosa	Thanduga	Tree	Common
Sonneratia apetala	Kalinga	Tree	Common
Acanthus ilicifolius	Allchi	Shrub	common

2. Details of the Mangrove Area (in Acres)

Name of the Village	Total Houses	Mangrove Area	Mangrove Dependant Families			
			Fuel	Fencing	Grazing	Cultivation
Pasumarthivari Palem	71	-----	---	----	---	60
Gokarnamatam Pallepalem	235	1000	195	50	20	02
Gokarnamatam Reddypalem	110	1000	105	50	40	25
Gokarnamatam Telagapalem	91	50	50	15	2	40
Thamas Peta	50	-	50	4	--	--
Military colony	79	1000	79	--	5	--
Teppamola Sangham	36	--	36	--	--	--
William Bharat Nagar	70	---	70	1	---	--
Muniretu	42	20	36	36	--	06
Bellamkondavaripalem	72	30	40	--	--	15
Chintarevu	166	10	102	15	8	112
Dindi – Adavala	227	---	150	20	--	14
Kesanavari Palem	51	60	40	40	--	08
Jampaneni vari Palem	40	120	25	25	10	09
Yemineni Vari Palem	59	65	45	45	12	18
Parisavari palem	100	21	90	90	26	20
Narravari palem	185	19	170	170	28	23
Nakshtra Nagar	260	520	205	205	04	--
Kottavuru	230	520	230	230	--	--
Kottapalem	550	1080	450	450	126	54
Seeraja Nagar	400	---	375	375	12	--
Pathuru	100	18	89	89	06	13
Tallatippa	157	25	140	140	52	21
Muketheswara puram	70	80	70	70	16	06
Munredupalem	59	125	59	59	18	23
Mollagunta	824	450	325	325	124	105
Total						

3. Seasonality of Crop Harvesting: Dindi Adavala

Crops	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Paddy	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Others	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	3	2	--

4 = Maximum

3 = Moderate

2 = Minimum

4. Dependency on Mangrove Resources: Nizampatnam Port Area

The villagers depend on Mangroves for fuel and timber. At the time of fishing, they collect fire wood and fencing materials from the Mangrove forest. Both Men and women collect fire wood from the Mangrove forest. The collection of wood is less during February, moderate during March and gradually the collection increases during summer months. The villagers utilize the mangrove resources for fire wood, house construction, fishing poles and for drying the fishing nets. Collection of crabs, fishes and prawn are also done in the mangrove forest. The villagers select some mangrove species which are nearby, easy to cut and has high combustion value. The plant species preferred by the villagers are Tilla (*Excoecaria agallocha*), Nalla Mada (*Avicennia officinalis*), Tella Mada(*Avicennia marina*) and Guggilam (*Aegiceras Corniculatum*) .

5. Perception of Villagers on Mangroves: Mollagunta Village

They believe that somehow the mangroves are useful but do not know how they can. The elders told the team that they the mangroves protect them from cyclone. But most of the men do not know that the mangroves are the breeding place for most of the fishes, prawns and crabs. They are unaware that the presence of mangroves reduces soil erosion and serves as shelter for some migratory birds. When the villagers were asked for the reason for the degradation of mangroves, they said that grazing by cattle belonging to adjoining villages, collection of wood material, fire wood, fencing and house construction and construction of prawn farms near the mangroves (these areas were earlier covered with mangroves) are the main causes.

6. Utilization of Mangroves for Different uses: Kesinenivari Palem Village

Name	Fuel	Fodder	House Construction	Fencing	Fishing poles
1.Tilla	1		4	1	4
2.Nall mada	4		2	1	2
3.Tell mada	4		2	1	2
4.Guggilam	3		2	1	1
5.Kalings	2		1	1	1
6.Togara	1		1	1	1
7.Goddi		4			

4 = Maximum Utilization,

2-3 = Moderate Utilization,

1 = Minimum Utilization

7. Fish resource form Mangrove forest and the backwaters: Nakshtra Nagar

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Prawn seed					4	4	4	3				
Prawn								4	4	3	2	
Crab	4											4
FISH												
Kattachepa		2	4	4	4							
Bochelu											2	2
Erramelu											3	3
Etulu											1	1

4 = Maximum catch,

3 - 2 = moderate catch

1 = Minimum catch

8. Seasonality: Mutheswara Puram

During the months of January, February and March, they spend lavishly on festivals like Sankranthi, Mahasivarathri, and the festival of village Dieties (Ammavaru). They also get good revenues between January and May. They go to mangrove forest during summer for firewood collection. There is no migration among the villagers but they are away for many days when they go for fishing. There is no migration among the villagers, but they will be away for a long time in the sea when they go for fishing.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rain						2	4	3	2	4	2	
Winter	4	2									2	3
Summer		2	2	4	4	2						

4 = Severe

3 = Moderate

2 = Minimum

9. Conservation Measures Suggested: Pathuru

The villagers have discussed more on this and finally suggested the following conservation measures that include helpers to reduce the local pressure on mangroves for fuel and timber and enhance the mangrove resources in the long run.

- ❖ Formation of Task Force Committees in the village
- ❖ Bring the area under Forest Department
- ❖ Resources to the Committees by the Government
- ❖ Loans to start Bio-Gas Plants
- ❖ Smokeless Chulas on Subsidised rates
- ❖ Plantation and monitoring of mangroves
- ❖ Plantation of Horticulture Plants in krishnabhoomi

❖ Training in sustainable Livelihoods

Capacity Building Activities:

Basing on participatory methodologies, capacity building activities were organized for both primary and secondary stakeholders at regular intervals. Audio and Video devices have been used to sustain the knowledge and understanding levels on the contents dealt in the training programmes. These have been proved to be more effective to attain the objectives and disseminate the information on mangrove ecology and its associated activities. The key components dealt in the Training Programmes are as follows:

- ❖ Staff Trainings: Community Mobilization, Peoples Organization, Communication Skills, Group formation, PRA Methods, Resources Management, Conservation Plans, Alternative Livelihoods, Participatory Methodologies
- ❖ MCSS Trainings: Democratic functioning of Groups, Leadership, Book-keeping, Resource management, Importance of Mangrove ecology, Communication Skills, Conservation Methods, Ethics in Harvesting Mangrove Resources. Existing Government Resources and Accessing procedures.
- ❖ SHGs Trainings: Women Development Issues, Savings and Internal lending, Meetings, Resolutions, Book-Keeping, Women Centered Livelihoods, Cooperative principles, MACS Formation and Functioning
- ❖ Cluster Level Trainings: Advocacy and Lobbying for Development Inputs, Schemes, MACS Formation and Functioning, Community Mobilization, Communication Skills, Identification of Suitable Alternative livelihoods

Training on Alternative Livelihoods:

1. Vermi Composting:

Basing on the women concerns expressed in PRA Study and the results of PRA Study, it is decided to train the women in Vermicompost Preparation. It is believed that this activity is economically viable as the raw material costs are low and easily accessible with in their vicinity. No problem for Marketing the compost is found as the near by villagers grow paddy and need the bio-fertilizers. Mr. Govardhan of Jeevan Dhara had acted as a Resource Person and trained 39 members belong to 06 villages in the First Phase in several aspects associated with Bed-construction, Bed-Layers, Types of raw material, Composition of material, Watering and Temperature Control, Collection and Packing of Compost etc.

A permanent Training Unit was launched Varmapuram of Kothapalem panchayath to facilitate more people learn the preparation of the most profitable and economically viable Vermicompost at free of cost. The responsibility of maintaining this Training center was given to the

local MCSS and they can meet training costs by selling the produce and collecting the nominal charges from the trainees. This endeavor is greatly appreciated by the local authorities and target population and Agricultural Department has come forward to provide 50% Subsidy on construction costs and on Purchase of Seeds (Vermis) to those who willing to start Vermi-Compost Preparation Units.

2. Embroidery Works:

As most of the women have expressed their keen interest in Embroidery works during PRA Study, we have made the needed arrangements to train the women in Hand Embroidery Works. The Women have made the physical arrangements and arranged a hall to conduct these trainings. 35 Women in Gokarna Matham Panchayath and 25 women in Varmapuram were trained in Embroidery Works for 60 days. The trainees are now in a position to take up this activity on their own for additional earnings. But this alone, can ensure them get low returns. Machine Embroidery work and Maggam works are to be taken up in the months ahead to impart a full pledged training that enable them more in the days of ever increasing demand for fashion designs

Sl.No	Name of the Village	Training period	No. of Women Trained
01	Gokarna Matam	60 days	35
02	Kottapalem	60 days	19
03	Dindi Adavala	60 days	18
04	Mollagunta	60 days	24
05	Zulu	60 days	19

3. Bee Keeping:

With the help and guidance of Mr. Nataraj of Rama Krishna Seva Samithi, Bapatla, we have arranged One day training Program on Bee-Keeping at Bapatla. Enough information is gathered particularly on the economic aspects of this trade from various experts who involved in Bee-Keeping in Mangrove dependant villages. As the Feed back was most encouraging, we had organized the training program at Bapatla on 07-02-2007. From 26 MCSSs, 38 members had taken an active part in this training and learnt various concepts associated with Bee-Keeping through the pictures documented. A practical demonstration on Bee-Keeping was arranged at Karlapalem in the evening and trainees were taken to tha area. They had observed the process, techniques and cautions involved in Bee-Keeping as an alternative livelihood. In the third week of February 2007, another training program had been arranged at Vinayashram, Gollapalli and 25 members were trained for 08 days. To train more people in the future and continue these efforts, a Bee-Keeping Unit had been started in Kotta palem Panchayath Area with 04 Boxes obtained from Rama Krishna Seva Samithi, Bapatla.

Plantation Activities:

Though the plantation activity was not planned and included in the project activities, sustainable efforts were made to take up mangrove plantation in the project area through involving the MCSS members. Dr.Rama Subramanian, Ethno Botanist, MS.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Kakinada had Conducted Topographic and Floristic Study in Yelichetladibba and Kottapalem areas. He found 13 mangrove Species in the area and they could be restored. Basing on his suggestions, tidal amplitude, free flow of water in the existing mangrove area and feed back of PRA Study, 07 mangrove species have been identified for plantation. We had raised the Mangrove saplings in three areas, Military Colony, Lankevanidibba and at Adavuladeevi in association with local MCSS members.

Mangrove Plantation Studies says that the ideal time for mangrove plantation is from October to December months in South India. Accordingly, the preparations were started and MCSS members and villagers were educated on plantation methods, Site Designs and Fish-Bone Type structures for plantation. 79 MCSS members from different villages had been involved in digging the canals for taking up plantation on either side of the canals for five days. They had completed the digging and prepared 18 acres for mangrove plantation. Along with Forest Department, Plantation program will be completed in October, 2007 as the preparations were completed and free of flow water in the dug canals is ensured.

Formation of A Community Based Co- operative:

Clubbing all SHGs at project level, a community based Mutually Aided Cooperative Society is planned to form to ensure combined, collective and cooperative efforts and finally register it under Mutually Aided Co-operative Societies Act (MACS) of Andhra Pradesh. MACS are more critical in the development of micro- enterprises and business plans in the long run and enable the women meet their credit and investment needs. Mrs.Sudha Rani who has been associated with Cooperatives and its Laws is invited to the training programs arranged at village and cluster levels.

Starting with micro level SHGs in the village, education on the economical benefits of MACS and importance of cooperative efforts in women development had been imparted. 60% of the women involved in thrift and credit activities were made well aware of MACS and its formation procedures. Cluster level training on MACS to the MCSS members had been the additional force to mobilize more women take part in MACS. Despite the steadfast efforts made to register the MACS under MACTS Act, a suit was filed in the High Court against the changes made by Government of Andhra Pradesh to safeguard its vested interests and political gains. Consequently, we had stopped the Registration of MACS under this Act temporarily till the Court Verdict comes.

Expenditure Statement:

S.N	Activity-Wise Break up	Amount Granted(INR)	Amount Spent(INR)
01	Awareness Generation:	26,000.00	28550
02	Topographic and Floristic Study and PRA	26,000.00	16980
03	Formation of MCSS and SHGs	23,400.00	25400
04	Training to Grassroots institutions	55,000.00	58800
05	Formation and Registration of MACS	10,000.00	5900
06	Training of MACS Members	4,200.00	***
07	Identification and Training in Sustainable Livelihoods	60,000.00	68000
08	Plantation	***	5800
09	Project Federation and Training	3,150.00	***
10	Advocacy and Lobbying	15,000.00	12000
11	Documentation	12,000.00	13500
12	Audit and Evaluation Expenses	10,000.00	10000
13	Honorarium to Project Leader and Two Associates	1,14,000.00	114000
14	Travel to Project Leader and 2 Associates	24,000.00	24000
Total:		3,82,750.00	3,82,930