

Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project

Newsletter- 7

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State Project Director (APCBTM Project)
Irrigation and Command Area Development Department
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Editorial

APCBTMP has completed four years. All tanks covering then entire target ayacut of 2.55 lakh hectares has been selected.

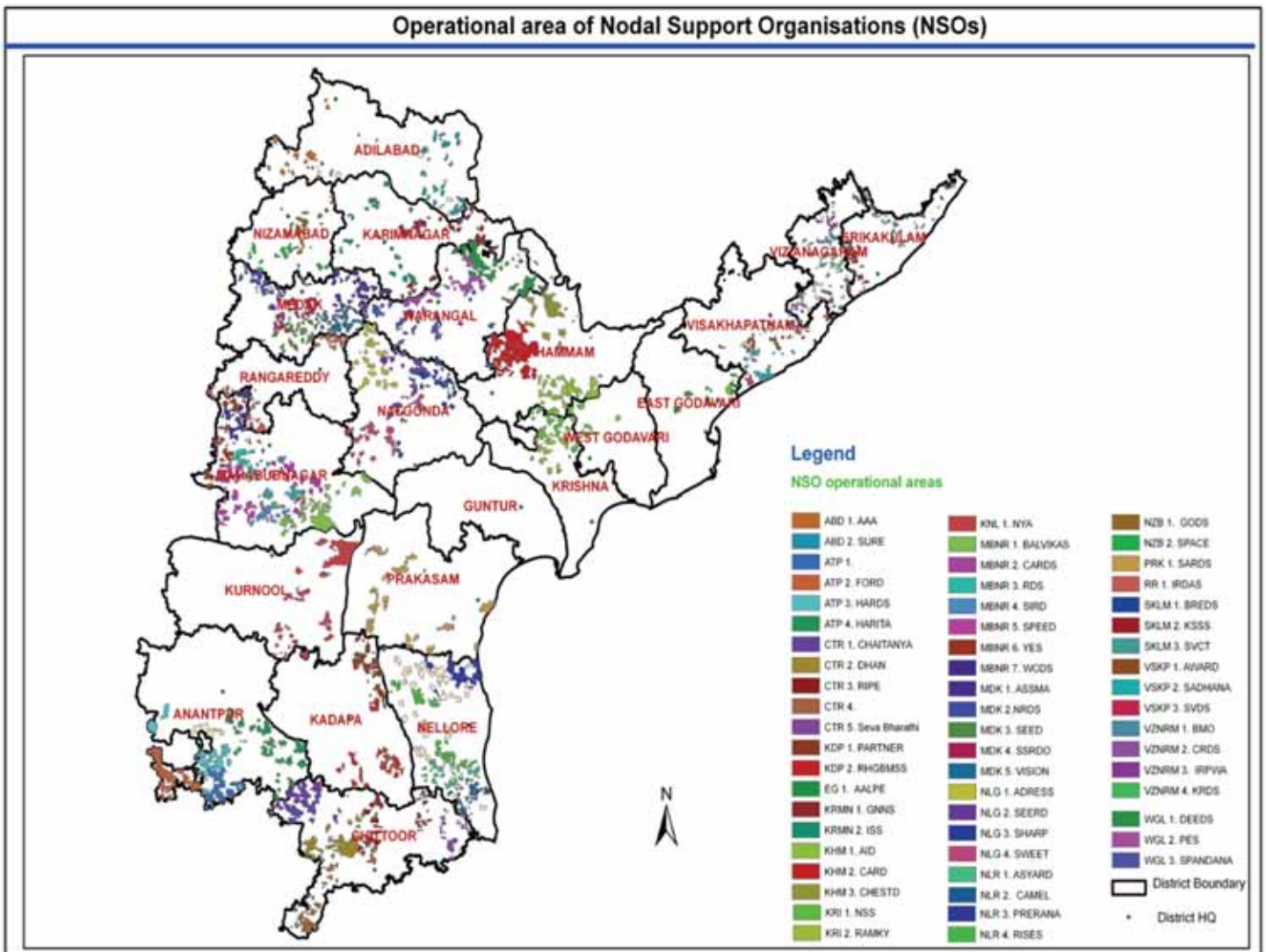
Already 321 WUAs have taken over Operations & Maintenance responsibilities of tanks. Nodal Support Organisations (NSOs) have been appointed for clusters of 30-40 WUAs/tanks in order to monitor the sustainability of WUAs capacities and for providing additional inputs. NSO will play a critical role in strengthening important sustainability parameters of WUAs such as a strong corpus fund, regular water tax assessment and collection, equitable water distribution, and proper tank system maintenance.

This Newsletter features some interesting success stories from across the state. These examples are worth applauding and emulating.

Major highlights of the Project

- o APCBTMP has selected 2156 tanks covering an ayacut of 2.55 lakh ha, about two percent more than the 2.5 lakh ha target area.
- o For sustainability monitoring of WUAs, 59 Nodal Support Organizations (NSOs) have been selected for 20 districts.
- o Administrative Approvals have been given to 2156 tanks costing Rs. 615 Crores.
- o WUA works for Entry Point Activities have been grounded in 2156 tanks, costing Rs 104 Crores.
- o Tenders works have been grounded in 1803 tanks covering 1.93 lakh ha, costing Rs. 318 Crores.
- o Civil Works as per TIMP have been completed in 447 tanks and 321 tanks have been handed over to their respective WUA for assuming O&M responsibilities.
- o Budget outlay for 2011-12 is Rs. 310.74 Crores.

Operational area of Nodal Support Organisations (NSOs)



Overview

Status of Works Grounded (Nov 2011)

S. No	District	Project tanks	Ayacut (ha)	AA tanks	Works grounded	
					WUA	Tender
1	Adilabad	56	6400	56	56	51
2	Anantapur	142	17376	142	142	132
3	Chittoor	165	16837	165	165	155
4	East Godavari	17	1226	17	17	17
5	Kadapa	63	9761	63	63	62
6	Karimnagar	67	7375	67	67	58
7	Khammam	113	18444	113	113	101
8	Krishna	95	12300	95	95	48
9	Kurnool	44	5968	44	44	44
10	Mahabubnagar	271	25952	271	271	256
11	Medak	232	22639	232	232	185
12	Nalgonda	136	13390	136	136	108
13	Nellore	127	23421	127	127	116
14	Nizamabad	137	14576	137	137	42
15	Prakasam	38	6187	38	38	35
16	Rangareddy	40	6265	40	40	40
17	Srikakulam	82	6762	82	82	73
18	Visakhapatnam	90	11491	90	90	80
19	Vizianagaram	99	8402	99	99	71
20	Warangal	129	17708	129	129	120
21	West Godavari	13	2380	13	13	9
Total		2156	254860	2156	2156	1803



WUA conducting Self Rating, Perentala Cheruvu, Sambaiah Gudem, Manuguru Mandal, Khammam District

APCBTMP: Component wise progress (Nov 2011)

Components	Unit	No.
Strengthening Community Based Institutions		
Support Organisation involved	N	278
Tanks allotted to SOs	N	2156
Nodal Support Organisations involved	N	59
Tank Improvement and Management Plans (TIMP) prepared	N	2139
WUA training modules completed	N	8868
Para workers trained	N	5097
Corpus fund (WUA O&M Account)	Rs/Lakh	787
WUA Contribution in kind to Works	Rs/Lakh	308
Tribal Development Plans approved	WUA	47
Gender Action Plans prepared	WUA	126
Tanks handed over to WUA	N	321
Improvement of Minor Irrigation Tanks		
Administrative approvals accorded	Tanks	2156
Technical sanctions	Tanks	2156
WUA works grounded	Tanks	2156
Tender works grounded	Tanks	1803
100% works completed	Tanks	557
75% - 100% works completed	Tanks	230
50-74% works completed	Tanks	161
25-49% works completed	Tanks	130
01-24% works completed	Tanks	725
Participatory Groundwater Management		
Tanks selected	N	315
PGM groups formed	N	2276
PGM group members	Men	18478
PGM group members	Women	17148
Farmers trained in PGM	N	6183
Module 1 (Need and methodology of Participatory GW Estimation)	N	302
Module 2 (PHM equipment handling, data collection & dissemination)	N	271
Module 3 (Crop Water Budgeting)	N	114
PHM volunteers collecting data	N	1355
CWB Workshops organised	Tank	111
Agricultural Livelihood Support Services		
Demonstrations completed	N	3194
Vermi compost units grounded	N	770
Kisan melas organised	N	493
Fingerlings stocked	Tank	798
CIGs for marketing	N	233

Strengthening Community Based Institutions

Shramadanam Energises WUA



Tank bed covered with bushes

Hotramandinne in Sanjamala mandal, 120 km from Kurnool district headquarters, is a small village consisting of only 60 households with a population of 305. The village irrigation tank called Paleru Anakatta has 160 acre ayacut, falling in Hotramandinne and Vasanthapuram villages.

Upon selection for restoration under APCBTMP, a local NGO, Awakening People's Action for Rural Development (APARD) was given the responsibility to mobilize and energize the WUA. APARD conducted gramasabha and PRA in Hotramandinne and Vasanthapuram villages. Through this the WUA identified problems and issues concerning the ayacutdars. APARD motivated the WUA members and encouraged them to attend monthly meetings, and discuss the problems faced by the ayacutdars.

APARD staff organized a series of meetings, involving the WUA members and the Irrigation Department officials. The WUA agreed to clean the tank bed. Accordingly all the ayacutdars worked in the field for 10 full days and removed all the bushes from the tank bed.

They also removed bushes and silt from the main field channel to facilitate free flow of water up to the tailend.

N.Suryanarayana Reddy, WUA president is a satisfied man: "The active involvement of all the farmers has made us strong. Earlier, water was flowing from the tank into the canals. But we could not use it as the agricultural lands were completely covered by bushes and grass. No crops could be raised. The main canal was developed and repaired. This has made water management system efficient leading to bridging the gap ayacut. This year the entire ayacut area is under irrigated crops. We raised two crops this year. We got very good yield compared to farmers outside the ayacut area."

Sri Ramulu, T.C. Member, opined: "Also the removal of bushes made the fields free from mosquitoes. There is less fever and other mosquito borne diseases. Our life has become more productive with more food and less disease."

N. Prasad Reddy, Paraworker added: "WUA collected Rs. 14,835/- from ayacutdars for our corpus fund."

The WUA President thanked the SO staff and the Project authorities for this remarkable change brought about by getting motivated to work together.



WUA discussing on problem solving

Tank System Improvement

District Collector Ensures Transparency at Work Sites



Works sub-committee meeting at work site

I, N. Mohadeva Naidu, am a member of the Works Sub-Committee in Pungamma tank of Punganur mandal in Chittoor district. Our tank has 171 acres of ayacut with 432 ayacutdars. Several times in the past, restoration works were undertaken in our village under various activities. The works were done by outsiders. We villagers used to watch them do the work and waste our time. We never used to bother about the quality or the details of works or the expenditure incurred on them.

However, now under APCBTMP we are actively involved. I am selected as a member of the Works Sub-committee. The SO

(DHAN) staff conducted trainings to the WUA on various aspects, including the works to be taken up and its execution and accounts maintenance.

We farmers really like the idea as the information is provided in the form of peoples' estimate in our local language (Telugu). Now the villagers can understand and easily assess the extent of work completed against the work estimated.

While executing the WUA works, I was surprised to learn that all the details of the project would be written on a Social Audit Board (wall painting) for the information of the villagers. Then, we prepared the information, selected a prominent wall in the village and wrote the details.

At this time, DHAN informed us that the District Collector, who chairs the District Level Implementation Committee, has instructed the Project Authorities to fill the information on the boards and establish them near each work site of the project.

As a WUA Works Sub-committee member, I helped in fixing the board near the work site. I am proud when most of the

ayacutdars stop by the board to discuss details of works being executed. I salute the District Collector who instructed the officers to fix the board near the work sites.



Later the DC garu even inspected some of the display boards in our tank. All the villagers also appreciate the method adopted by the Project and the District Collector for ensuring it to serve its purpose.

Participatory Groundwater Management (PGM)

Care for Water – Share Water

Sri Naidu Penchala Reddy, aged 62 years, belongs to Yepilagunta village, Marripadu mandal, Nellore district. The village has a rain-fed tank with an ayacut of 147 acres (59 ha). Paddy is the principal crop under this tank. The tank water is not sufficient to supply water to entire ayacut, especially during dry spells. To tackle the situation, Naidu drilled a bore well to a depth of around 60m bgl in 2001 and is irrigating 8 acres of paddy and sugarcane.

Under APCBTMP, Yepilagunta tank was chosen for Participatory Groundwater Management (PGM). As a part of PGM, the Ground Water Department selected five bore wells as PHM wells.



Farmers collecting groundwater levels

In the PGM component, PHM farmers and para workers received knowledge inputs from the Training Resource

Person during three types of capacity building training programmes, viz., (i) groundwater resource estimation, (ii) PHM equipment handling, measurement of rainfall, water levels, and discharges, and (ii) crop water budgeting during 2009. Water level indicator with a stopwatch and 100 litre measuring drum were handed over by the Ground Water Department, Nellore to WUA/PHM farmers to measure water levels and discharges from PHM wells every fifteen days. The Ground Water department also established rain-gauge station in the village in 2009 to measure accurate rainfall and to link with water level trend.

Realizing the importance of monitoring the rainfall and water levels, the PHM farmers owned-up the concept of PGM, and from October 2009 onwards they are regularly measuring the Static Water Level (SWL) and Pumping Water Level (PWL) after 3 hours of pumping and discharge from PHM wells with the help of para worker.

Sri Naidu Penchala Reddy declared: "Static Water Level (SWL) in borewell varies from 2.34 to 6.30 m. below ground level (BGL) and Pumping Water Level (PWL) varies from 8.37 to 11.36 meters below ground level and fills the 100 litre drum in about 10 seconds".

"Based on the discharge (calculated from conversion table), I came to know that my borewell is extracting 0.216 hectare meter daily @ 6 hours of pumping. On an average my borewell is functioning around 100 to 120 days."

"If I take 100 days of functioning with an average of pumping of 6 hours daily, the yield from my borewell is sufficient to irrigate to 36 hectares of non-paddy crops."

“As there is surplus groundwater available from my borewell, I am ready to share water with my neighbouring needy farmers to irrigate their crops with assured water supply.”

“For this, I require pipeline to share my excess water with other farmers and to minimize the flow losses and to bring the non-cropped area into cropped area”.

Sri Naidu Penchala Reddy expressed his sincere gratitude to APCBTMP for the concept and inputs on PGM. He sees great future in water sharing from high yielding wells like his for increasing productivity and promoting social equity.



Agricultural Livelihoods Support Services (ALSS)

New fodder variety increases dairy profits

Uddandapuram is a small village of Nakkapalli mandal, Visakhapatnam district adjoining NH-5. It is at a distance of 110 km from the district headquarters. The village is in the rain shadow zone and agricultural crops often fail. Due to this the farmers are always on the edge. Farmers are ready to take up alternative livelihoods. But most of them are ignorant about what will provide them a steady income.

Under these circumstances, SVDS, the SO selected by APCBTMP entered Uddandapuram. SO staff explained the project objectives with focus on Agricultural Livelihoods Support Services. The farmers were very impressed with and wanted to take up activities under the project.



The project staff conducted a series of meetings in the village. The various sources available within the village and in the vicinity related to agriculture and allied activities were mapped. Dairy activity seemed feasible. When this was discussed with the farmers, they were reluctant to take it up. They pointed out lack of fodder availability and their ignorance about dairy activity. It was explained that the required training would be provided by the project with the help of the Animal Husbandry Department on cattle management. They were promised a demonstration for raising fodder crop.

Sri.Komarathi Ramana came forward to take up the fodder demonstration in 0.5 acres of his field. He was given CO - 3 slips which is an improved fodder variety which is perennial fodder as he has assured irrigation supply from his borewell. The fodder demo was organised by the DPU in liaison with Animal Husbandry Department. The DPU along with the local Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and the SO Agri Coordina-

tor regularly visited the field and provided timely suggestions and inputs to Sri Ramana. In the mean time, other farmers were given training in dairy management and development. They were told in detail about the benefits of using fodder grass in increasing the milk yield of cattle.

In the fodder demo plot, the first cutting was taken after 60 days of plantation, and from then one cutting is taken every 40 days. The yield was 2.5 tons in the first four cuttings. Sri Ramana has used the fodder for his cattle and observed increase in the milk yield. Taking the advice of the Project Staff, Ramana approached a bank and took a loan of Rs.50,000. He purchased a Murrah buffalo and one HF cow for Rs.60,000 (adding his own savings of Rs.10,000).

Ramana started the dairy activity with these two animals and followed all the suggestions given to him during the training and used the fodder he was growing. He has seen good milk yields and extended the fodder area to another acre bringing it to 1.5 acres.

He has earned an amount of Rs.71,820 during the first six months of dairy activity. He has repaid the bank loan of Rs.27,000. Using the balance amount he has again invested in purchasing another HF cow. At present he is earning Rs. 16,110 per month from the three animals (2 HF cows and one Murrah buffalo). He has completely repaid the bank loan. He is leading a very happy life and attributes his success to the project and the project staff.

Ramana says: *“Life used to be very miserable before APCBTMP. We depended completely on agriculture which failed most of the times. Though some of us have cattle their milk yield was very low, barely sufficient for household needs.”*

We are indebted to project and its staff for making us aware and guiding us at every step. The fodder demo organised by the project has changed our lives. We are very lucky that our village was selected by the Project.

Seeing Ramana's success, more farmers are now coming forward to start dairy activity and take up fodder cultivation as an alternative livelihood instead of depending only on agriculture for their livelihood.

Now the farmers say: *“The Project has shown us a new livelihood option.”*

Collective Marketing Success

Enterprising WUA President – Additional Income from Fisheries

Bodinaidu Tank is situated in Koduru village of Badangi Mandal, Vizianagaram district. 80% of the villagers depend on agriculture and allied activities. Major crops grown in the tank command area are paddy and pulses. Most of the 226 ayacutdars of the tank are small and marginal farmers.



The ayacut area of Bodinaidu tank is 42 ha and effective water spread area is 10 hectares. There is no Fisheries Cooperative Society formed for the tank.

Every year the Gram Panchayat used to stock the fish seed and harvest the fish from the tank and uses the income for its programmes. Income from fisheries never went to the Water User Association. As the tank was selected for the renovation under APCBTMP, the WUA came to know about the various sources of income that is possible to build its corpus. The awareness created by the DPU prompted Mr. Lachabathula Suryanarayana, the President of the WUA to generate additional income from fisheries for its Corpus Fund.

The SO (Bapuji Mahila Organisation) provided various capacity building inputs to the WUA members. As a result of the

capacity building on productivity enhancement programs, the WUA members decided that they would take up fish culture in the tank to generate additional income for the WUA.

The WUA president took an active role in convincing the farmers to get involved in fisheries activity. He also spoke to Grama Panchayat to participate in the activity. During 2008-09, fish seed was stocked and fish culture was taken up by the WUA for the first time. Fish was harvested during 2009-10 and realized an amount of Rs. 15 lakh through sale of fish by marketing on their own.

The WUA president deserves an award for organizing the farming community to take up fisheries on their own even without the intervention of APCBTMP. Bodinaidu WUA has become self sufficient and will be a role model for other WUAs.



Collective marketing in fisheries

Implementing Tribal and Gender Action Plans

Tribal Development Plans : empower the Tribal farmers in tank management farmers/ayacutdars are encouraging livelihoods based fund. The intervention is taken up in ten district DPUs have formed 77 Tribal Committees. Forty Seven TD Plans are approved. Each TD Committee is eligible to get Rs. 50,000/- towards Livelihood Fund. The TD committees have been trained on tank management and exposure visits on agriculture practices were organized at KVK.



DPD, NZB distributing the Power Sprayer to Tribal CIG member



Training to Women CIG

Gender Action Plan (GAP): Empowers women ayacutdars are promoted with Livelihood fund for ALSS based activities. 353 CIGs were formed in 16 Districts and 126 plans are prepared and submitted to the PMU for approval. The CIGs have completed trainings on Gender aspects, Tank system management, and ALSS activities. Each CIG is eligible for Rs.50,000/- from livelihood fund.

Nodal Support Organisations(NSOs) Inducted

APCBTMP has selected 59 Nodal Support Organizations (NSOs) for Sustainability Monitoring of the Water User Associations for 15 months from September 2011 to December 2012. Each NSO has 5 professional staff:

1. Community Management Specialist & Team Leader (CMS&TL)
2. Civil Engineer (CE)
3. Agri-Business Specialist (ABS),
4. Community Organiser – Institutional Development (CO-ID)
5. Community Organiser – Agriculture Livelihoods Support Services (CO-ALSS)

The main objective of the assignment is to strengthen WUAs for their institutional, technical and financial sustainability. Specifically, an NSO shall ensure institutional sustainability of WUAs through monitoring of water tax collection, corpus fund development and WUA management, improved O&M of the rehabilitated tanks, increased productivity, and efficient water use.

275 NSO staff was given induction training in six batches at regional centres. During the training, PMU Experts and DPU staff discussed each project component in depth.



NSO Staff Induction Programme

The roles and responsibilities of NSO staff were part of a four group discussions. The trainees learned how to prepare action plans and periodic accomplishment reports for successful completion of the various aspects of the assignment.

Participatory Training Methods including Team work were used for the training. Most participants were very satisfied with the inputs. Subsequently, subject specific trainings will be organised. The District Project Directors and Assistant Project Directors also participated along with the NSO staff essentially to bring common understanding on the deliverables of the NSO assignment and team building.

PGM - ToT for Training Resource Persons



TRPs interacting with D.Chekkavaripalli farmers

A three day training of trainers (ToT) programme was organized at MYRADA, Kadiri, Anantapur for 12 candidates selected as Training Resource Persons to support tank level Participatory Groundwater Management (PGM) interventions. Participants were given a thorough understanding of the Project objectives and the role of PGM in sustainable tank based water management.

As part of the training programme the TRPs visited D. Chekkayaripalli village tank and interacted with PGM farmers. They observed how the farmers are using PHM equipment, collecting data and doing crop-water budgeting using the findings.

The Eighth World Bank Implementation Project Support Mission will be visiting APCBTMP during the 3rd week of November 2011.

State Project Director (APCBTM Project)
Irrigation and Command Area Development Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Jalasoudha, 3rd Floor, Erramanzil, Hyderabad - 500082

Website: www.apmitanks.in

Email: pmu@apmitanks.in