

Project Framework

The SPACC Project adopts a Results Based Framework to monitor and evaluate the project progress. Various indicators are used to monitor and assess results of the project implementation at different levels.

Outcome 1

Information tools and local institutional capacities developed for farmers and CBOs to make informed decisions on land and water management based on scientific and local knowledge, taking into account impact of climate variations.

Output 1.1

Completed study on local and scientific knowledge on impacts of climate variability/change on natural resources in Andhra Pradesh

Output 1.2

Local monitoring system of climate variability and its impacts operating

Output 1.3

CBOs with capacities to integrate climate variability adaptation measures in Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM)

Outcome 2

Pilots on SLWM including climate variability adaptation in farming systems in drought-prone areas.

Output 2.1:

Farmers acquire skills in managing climate variability and testing adaptation technologies in farming systems through participation in Climate Change Schools (CCS)

Output 2.2:

Pilot testing of alternative adaptation technologies and practices in SLWM

Outcome 3

A platform for land based climate change adaptation measures suitable to drought prone areas developed; adaptation of a package of methods, tools and institutional approaches in support of District and State level Natural Resource Management initiative to address the impacts of drought.

Output 3.1:

Project lessons, results, and products (CCS Curriculum, field testing methods, adaptation technology and practices manuals, and institutional approaches) documented and disseminated

Field Units

Bharati Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS)

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Centre of Applied Research and Extension (CARE)

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Collective Activity for Rejuvenation of Village Arts and Environment (CARVE)

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Development Initiatives and People's Action (DIPA)

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Gram Vikas Samstha (GVS)

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Society For Sustainable Agriculture And Forest Ecology (SAFE)

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Star Youth Association (SYA)

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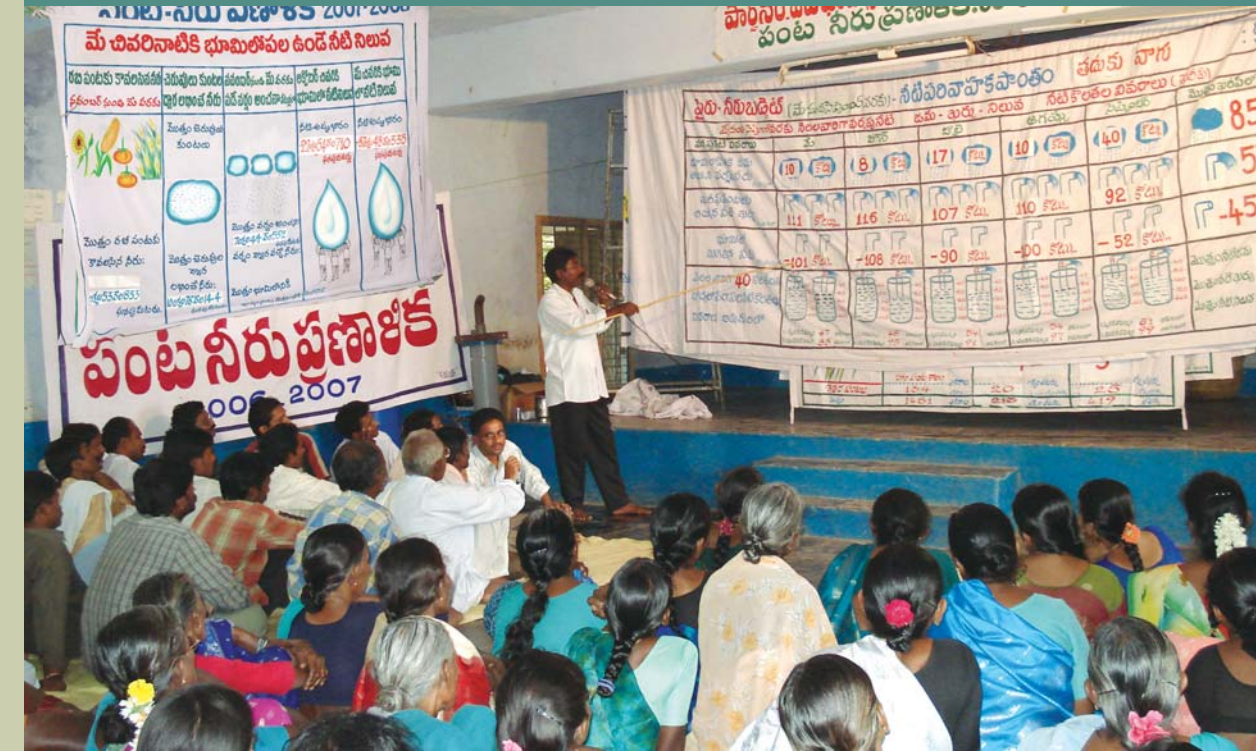
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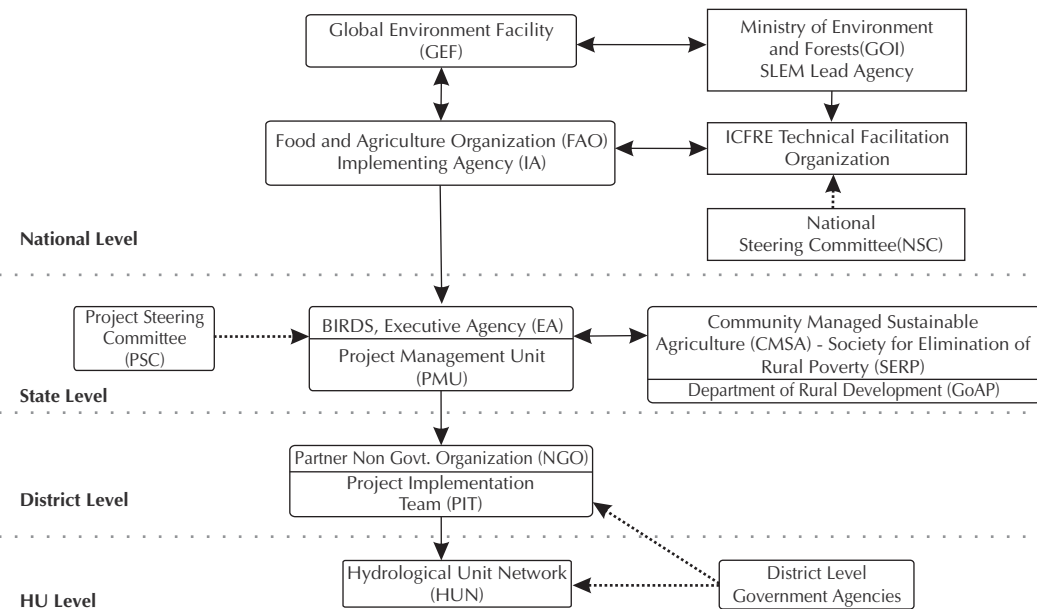
SPACC The GEF Strategic Pilot on Adaptation to Climate Change

Reversing Environmental Degradation and Rural Poverty through Adaptation to Climate Change in Drought Stricken Areas in Southern India: A Hydrological Unit Pilot Project Approach



Building Adaptive Capacity of rural communities in Land and Water Management

Project Management and Coordination Arrangements





Strategic Pilot on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) Project

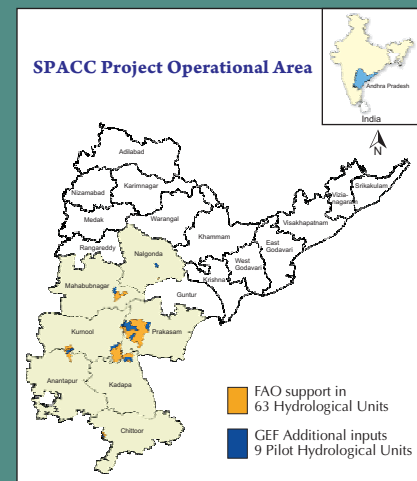
The project “Reversing Environmental Degradation and Rural Poverty through Adaptation to Climate Change in Drought Stricken Areas in Southern India: A Hydrological Unit Pilot Project Approach”, also referred to as Strategic Pilot on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) Project is implemented in 9 Hydrological Units, spread over 143 habitations of the extent of about 134,442 ha, covering a population of 204,567. The Project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), under its Focal Area Climate Change; Operational Program Strategic Pilot on Adaptation; and GEF Strategic Program 8 to support pilot demonstration projects for adaptation to climate change. The project is co-financed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN). The project duration is 3 years, starting on December 6, 2010.

Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS) is the Executing Partner of the SPACC project. While the Project Management Office (PMO) of BIRDS provides technical and managerial support, its Nodal Desk at the registered office (Nandyal town in Kurnool district) takes care of financial and fiduciary management. BIRDS Field Unit, based at Allagadda town, directly implements the project activities, in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. BIRDS sub-contracted eight partner Non Governmental Organizations (PNGOs), for implementation of the project in the remaining districts.

BIRDS Network through an Indo-Dutch bilateral assistance program provided community borewell irrigation facilities to about 3,000 small and marginal farmers in the state. Responding to the alarming situation of

overuse of groundwater for irrigation, BIRDS Network, with the support of the Government of Netherlands and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has engaged communities in to create a platform for community management of groundwater systems, through what is now popularly known as the Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS) Project. **It is to this initiative that BIRDS network is engaged with, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is providing additional inputs to build the Adaptive Capacity of the farmers to face climate variability/change.**

GEF Project ID	: 3882
GEF -SPA Grant	: USD9,09,091
FAO Project ID	: 604144
FAO Co-financing	: USD13,00,000
Starting Date	: December 2010
Project Duration	: Three years
Geographic area	: 1,34,442.09 ha
Population	: 2,04,567
District	: 7
No. of habitations	: 143



FAO Initiative

While leaders of the world debate on who was responsible for global warming and resultant changes in the climate, and who should cut down on their greenhouse gas emissions, BIRDS network embarked upon a mission to build the adaptive capacities of the rural communities to cope with consequences of climate change and variability. Building on the experience of APFAMGS, BIRDS network aims to minimize impacts of climate change/variability through: mass awareness generation, skill development and evolving location-specific technologies and methods of climate-smart agriculture and water management.

In the business as usual scenario, FAO would have continued to support BIRDS network in their endurance to build the community capacity around sustainable groundwater management, through the following key activities:

- 1. Participatory Hydrological Monitoring (PHM)** sensitizes individual groundwater users on judicious use of groundwater. It improves the users understanding of local groundwater resource characteristics. This helps local communities to form a community opinion to support appropriate measures to manage the available groundwater resources equitably. It involves measuring rainfall, water levels and discharge of borewells.
- 2. Farmer Water Schools** use a discovery and experiential learning process. FWS participants meet once every 15 days in the farm/field, from June to May, to discuss concepts on groundwater management namely, availability of water resources, impact of available water resources on crop production, role of institutions in sustainable groundwater management.
- 3. Crop-water Budget (CWB)** involves estimation of groundwater balance based on the total recharge and draft for a particular hydrological year. This estimation helps farmers make informed decisions on the crops to be sown. Local farmers CBOs organize CWB workshops at the hydrological unit level before the Rabi season. The workshop acts as a platform for sharing information on water balance, cropping pattern, groundwater dynamics of the HU, as well as crop planning for upcoming Rabi season. Later, the CBO members follow up on CWB decisions to review adoption of crop plans.
- 4. Groundwater Monitoring Committees (GMCs)** are the farmer institutions at the habitation level that monitor groundwater resources in the particular habitation. GMCs federate into Hydrological Unit Networks (HUNs) at the Hydrological Unit level. In all, 638 GMCs and 63 HUNs are functioning actively. They operate the groundwater monitoring system, lead in dissemination of data, identify/resolve issues related to water and agriculture, and act as a conduits for collective management of groundwater resources.



GEF Additional Inputs

GEF funds bring in additional environmental benefits to the on-going FAO initiative through broadening the agenda of community capacity for sustainable groundwater management to building adaptive capacity of rural community for sustainable land and water management, through the following key activities:

- 1. Monitoring Climate Variables** The existing climate monitoring system generates data on one climate variable rainfall and three climate impact variables i.e., water level in wells, annual groundwater balance, and cropping. The climate monitoring system would generate additional data sets, such as temperature and humidity, which are essential in the context of monitoring climate variability and its impact.
- 2. Climate Field Schools** The Climate Field Schools (CFS) is based on the positive experience of the APFAMGS Project with the Farmer Water Schools. CFS aims to demystify the science of climate variability/change. This is made possible through a partnership with community by promoting local knowledge and skills while bringing to the community information from global research. In CFS, farmer participants meet regularly (once every 15 days) to study the “how and why” of climate variability and its impact on agricultural livelihoods.
- 3. Pilots** Various pilots on sustainable water management and climate-smart agriculture will be initiated to facilitate a synthesis of indigenous knowledge with existing scientific knowledge. This will involve field testing of current farmer practices and scientific recommendations to develop a package of adaptation practices at each of GEF pilot HUs.
- 4. Institution Building** Climate Change Adaptation Committees (CCACs) manage the climate monitoring system at the habitation and hydrological unit level and disseminate information and knowledge on climate variability/change. This includes identification of site for establishing climate monitoring system, selection of volunteers, data collection, and update climate change database. Additionally, they will lead the organization and conduct of Climate Field Schools (CFS). The PNGOs will backstop the CCACs in implementing these activities. The PNGOs will sign a MOU with the HU-level CCACs for effective implementation of project activities, monitoring, and development of annual work plans.
- 5. Policy Advocacy** The SPACC Project coordinates with multiple stakeholders national, international, government, non-government, and community based institutions. Further, through coordination with institutions at varied levels, the project bridges the gap between grassroots organizations and policy makers at national and international level. The project’s institutional framework reflects this.

Project Development Objective

“Knowledge and capacities of communities in pilot Hydrological Units in Andhra Pradesh, India are strengthened to respond to climate change impacts”